WRITE TO-DAY
AND OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT.

JOHN BULL

Vol. VII. No. 185 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1909. | ONE PENNY

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No. 120943

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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This must be signed by a medical man { Name ..... Address .....

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

JOHN BULL, 18/12/09.

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You are fit, and *YOU* know you are fit still for many years useful work; but appearances are against you—

YOUR GREY HAIRS MAKE YOU LOOK TOO OLD!

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All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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Special Notice to our Readers and the Newspaper Trade.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays our next issue will be published on Wednesday, 22nd inst., instead of Thursday, and will be on sale at all newsagents and bookstalls on that day.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

A PUBLIC MEETING

Under the auspices of the League will be held in the

KING'S HALL, HACKNEY BATHS,

LOWER CLAPTON ROAD, N.E.

. ON .

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1909.

Chair to be taken at 8.30 p.m. by the President,

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.

Doors Open at 7.45 p.m.

Prior to the commencement of the proceedings Selections of Music will be given by

THE IMPERIAL MILITARY BAND.

Vocalist: Miss HILDA COLLENS. Harpist: Miss LUCY WESTON.

Mr. LEO STORMONT will sing
THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE SONG.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

"If you see it in JOHN BULL. . .!" The fact that Mr. Balfour is ill is now public property. He is really ill.

Mr. Asquith's Albert Hall meeting was almost as enthusiastic as that of the League, on Trafalgar Day—and nearly as crowded.

The series of provincial meetings in connection with the John Bull League is, for the present, interrupted by the demands of the General Election. We finished up last week at Birmingham, where the capacity of the Town Hall was quite inadequate. Later on, we hope to get to the South of England.

Those M.P.'s who were rash enough to leave the country before the fate of the Budget was decided, are now rushing wildly home. Will Crooks, however, will not reach his constituency till the eve of the poll. We warned him, the day before he left, of what would happen, and he laughed at us, and said in his own inimitable way, "Don't you believe it, my boy."

The King is evincing the keenest interest in the political crisis, and has arranged to have the result of each election wired direct to him immediately after the declaration of the poll.

We are not Jingoes, but we do believe in the reality of the German peril, and we think the *Daily Mail* is rendering good service to the nation by opening its columns to the eloquent warnings of Mr. Blatchford. At the inaugural meeting of the John Bull League, in the Albert Hall, no part of our speech was received with greater enthusiasm than that in which we said:—

> I hope I am not what the world calls a jingo, but I am in favour of utilising our present power before it is overtaken by other countries—countries who have no justification for overtaking it, except a sinister one, of which the least said the better. I am in favour of using that power, and saying to these nations, "If you are not content with your present naval strength we will see that it goes no further, and we will come now and sink your ships to the bottom of the sea."

And we shall go on saying it.

Great pressure is being brought to bear upon two of our senior Judges—"Long Lawrance" and Sir William Grantham—to retire at the end of the present Sittings, to make room for two Liberal appointments. But they are both essentially "political judges" and, up to the present, refuse to budge—on the off-chance of the Tories coming back after the elections. They prefer to keep their judicial seats warm for Mr. Cave and Mr. Duke. Meanwhile, the Government will get over its difficulty by making two new Judges, "in view of the congestion in the King's Bench." Ahem!

By the way, what are the odds, in the event of Mr. Balfour "coming back," against "F. E." giving up the Bar and taking high political office?

Some Parliamentary candidates appear to think that any silly old story is good enough for their audiences. Note a speech made by Mr. G. D. Faber, M.P., at Clapham. He said a certain laundryman had informed him that some of the men employed by the London and South Western Railway Company have such trouble to make ends meet that they are now doing most of their own washing, as a result of which the laundryman's trade had fallen 50 per cent. Possibly if Mr. Faber will make inquiry he will find that the L.S.W. Railwaymen can now afford to black their boots on Sundays only, with the result that most of the blacking manufacturers are on the brink of bankruptcy; also that they can't afford to get their hair cut, with the result that tonsorial artists are on the verge of ruin. Mr. Faber must have formed a poor opinion of the intelligence of Clapham.

Then at the Trafalgar Square demonstration, a literary gentleman is reported as having fired at the crowd from the plinth of the Nelson column this remarkable oration: "The Lords. And they are going to get it. The Lords are. Who are they? The Lords. Who are the Lords who are going to get it? To get what they have asked for? These Lords, who are they? Parasites. The Lords are parasites. And now they are going to get it. To get what they have asked for. In this fight blows will yet be struck. Blows. In this fight against the Lords. There will be struck blows. Blows." This is evidently going to be the gem in election balderdash. The gem. In election balderdash. And what is balderdash? This gem. The gem in—oh, mercy on us! What have the many-headed done that they should suffer and endure these things?

If you see it in the *Referee* it *will be* so! Some time ago we suggested a solution of the Suffragette problem by the establishment of a Woman's Parliament—whereupon we were informed by the versatile and evergreen "Dagonet" that that was his idea. Now he takes his revenge upon us in connection with that Business Government of ours. Writing the other day, in his "Mustard and Cress" column (and, by the way, as time goes on, the mustard diminishes), he says:

> There are too many lawyers in the present Ministry. We have an English lawyer for Prime Minister, a Welsh lawyer for Chancellor of the Exchequer, a Scottish lawyer at the head of the War Office, the Secretary of State for India is a lawyer, the Irish Secretary is a lawyer, the First Lord of the Admiralty is a lawyer. No wonder when people talk of the Cabinet they hold up their hands and exclaim, "O Law!"

We are told there are to be no more shivering and hungry folk on the Embankment this Christmas, so no doubt those of us whose way homeward it is will be able to go to bed on Christmas Eve without having our sleep disturbed by visions of ragged, white-faced men and women staring at us through the dark. The Salvation Army has managed to provide a night shelter for the derelicts of the Embankment, though with standing room only, so that, however they may fare in other ways, they will at least be out of the cold. It is impossible for anyone who has seen this shivering army on the march to the soup kitchen at Millbank to doubt that a considerable percentage of the muster is unemployable, many because they are too weak or too decrepit, others because they are chronic loafers. The only practical, the only humane and helpful way of dealing with loafers is to send them willy nilly into State Labour Colonies. This would take them off the streets, perhaps in time even make self-respecting men of some of them. We should then get at the real heart of the poverty problem. As matters now are, it is beyond question that a vast deal of charity runs to waste.

Now that the Servians have taken all possible advantage of Montenegro's friendship and the Balkan crisis seems to be over, they are demonstrating and intriguing against the little Principality once more. It will be remembered that bombs were sent from Belgrade to Cettinje in 1907 to blow up the Prince and his family. Now fresh Servian conspiracies are afoot. The pretext is that the Montenegrins recently executed five criminals who were found guilty of high treason. The real reason, our Cettinje correspondent telegraphs, is jealousy. Royal and imperial personages will attend the forthcoming jubilee of the Prince, but they do not go to Belgrade.

Apropos our recent reference to the circumstances in which Captain England "resigned" from the command of the *Nimrod* on the alleged ground of ill-health, we now have before us a copy of the letter of resignation, from which we extract the following sentence:

> For your private information, since the question of my health in mind and body has been quoted as the reason of my resignation, I beg to inform you that I am perfectly sound in both body and mind, and that my resignation has been forced upon me, nor did I know of this, as you know, until I received my instructions from Mr. Shackleton by your hands. At present I do not wish this statement made public, unless it becomes necessary in the interests of the Expedition.

We should also like to quote two other sentences from this letter, showing what a large-hearted fellow Captain England is:

> In reference to the crew of the *Nimrod*, there is an agreement existing between them and the Expedition that they receive a bonus of 10s. a month throughout, which bonus is to be increased to £1 a month during their voyage South, reducing on their return to 10s. a month until they sail again for the South, when it again should increase to £1 a month until they return to New Zealand. This was subject to my approval. All hands well deserve the bonus, and in the possibility of its being overlooked I wish to draw your attention to this.
>
> There is also another agreement between Mr. Shackleton and the crew of the *Nimrod* that they shall receive an extra bonus for their exceptional work in the South this last time of £1 a month from the time of crossing the circle. This should be paid at once.

The circumstances attending the sad death of a Cheriton girl have aroused much feeling against two local medical men, Dr. Madden and Dr. Gore, who live opposite each other. The girl was a laundry hand, she was taken suddenly ill, and several times messengers went to Dr. Gore's surgery, to be answered each time that he was "out." Dr. Madden was then summoned. He asked whether the girl was employed in a laundry, adding: "We don't like attending them. We never get anything from them. They never pay." Eventually on being guaranteed his fee, he promised to attend in the morning if "no one"—that is to say, Dr. Gore—turned up before. Dr. Gore did not turn up, and Dr. Madden was again called for in the morning, but by the time he reached the house the girl had died from septic peritonitis. She had been in fearful pain from stomach perforation for twenty-one hours. The explanation of the doctors at the inquest was that they did not realise the seriousness of the case. The answer to that is that they necessarily could not realise what neither of them took the trouble to test. All we care to say is that we hope they will in future anticipate the possibilities when summoned to the bedside of poor people in Cheriton. It is true that medical men in good practice live a hard life, and are often imposed on. But we hold that the human call is imperative, fee or no fee, poor man or rich man, and that no doctor completely fulfils his duty unless he is prepared to respond to it.

Some magistrates have no bowels of compassion at all. According to a Chichester paper, "old and miserable-looking" John Conway was found begging, and was, therefore, run in by a policeman. Brought before the Mayor and Mr. Street, "the old man said he was perished with the cold, and being seventy years of age would like to get back to Bristol, where he belonged, and draw an old-age pension or find rest in the workhouse." The magistrate sent him to Portsmouth Gaol for seven days instead. From that magisterial brutality let us pass to another. The Aston magistrates have sentenced two men of "no fixed abode" to three months' imprisonment for "being without visible means of subsistence," adding the promise that if the men came before them again they would be dealt with as rogues and vagabonds and given the "cat." It is really a pity that the moral perspective of magistrates who award sentences of this kind cannot be corrected by administering to them full doses of the punishment they give to others. Twelve of the cat and three months' regular exercise at stone-breaking would do some of them a world of good.

Apparently it is not sufficient that Sheriff W. R. Armstrong, of Newcastle, should press his fanatical teetotalism into municipal hospitalities by inaugurating cold-water banquets to celebrate his days of official joy, but he must needs go out of his way to insult and vilify—for this is what his speech at the Benwell Presbyterian Church bazaar amounts to—not only previous Lord Mayors and Sheriffs of Newcastle, but his colleagues in the Council. "Few of them knew what the Sheriff's room meant," he told his audience. "It had been in the past a drinking saloon, and a disgrace to the men who had managed it. He had seen men wrecked morally and physically and sent to an early grave through the influence of that room and its contents. Men who sat in the Council Chamber to-day under the influence of drink"—and so forth. Though it is of course the usual rhetorical fustian of the teetotaler with the audacity of his convictions, we are not in the least surprised that it caused the greatest indignation in the northern city.

A member of the Council, Mr. Shortt, described the charge made by this self-advertising, aqueous Sheriff as "diabolical." Messrs. Lee, Rowe, and Fitzgerald, former Sheriffs, all declared the allegation to be false, and Mr. Fitzgerald even threatened an action for slander and defamation, which he would be perfectly justified in bringing. Apart from the falsity of the charges, they were in execrable social taste. They are the last word in ingratitude. As we recently said, there was, and is no reason in the world why a man should be debarred from public office because he has conscientious preference for refreshing himself at the crystal fountain, but when he is elected to office by the goodwill of his colleagues, it is nothing less than an outrage that he should almost immediately turn round upon them in a bid for the applause of the Nonconformist Conscience, and denounce them as rioters in official drink debauches presided over by his previous colleagues in office. It is not to be supposed that the Sheriff has deliberately set himself to utter what Mr. Balfour would call a frigid and calculated lie. But your wrong-headed, self-opinionated, preposterous teetotaler is not over fastidious in his exaggerations or over careful in his sifting of facts. In the jaundiced eyes of this excellent specimen of the kidney we do not doubt that every trifling excess of earthly ecstasy, every ebullition of boisterous good humour at the hospitable boards of his predecessors in office has assumed the form of a personified iniquity and ruin. Since writing the above, we are pleased to hear that the Sheriff has publicly apologised to his colleagues, and it is to be hoped that in future he will be more discreet in his utterances.

We wonder whether the authors of the Children Act foresaw a fraud of this kind—the story of which comes to us with documentary evidence:

> Selecting a likely street for their operations, one man calls at each door and representing himself as employed by the L.C.C., enquires if there are any children in the house, and receiving an affirmative reply, asks to inspect the fire-guard. If the person is without one, he cautions them to procure one in seven days, failing which they will be summoned. Later on, the accomplice canvasses the same street, taking orders for fire-guards on the instalment system, collecting the first payment (in some cases 6d., others 1s.) and promising delivery in a few days. Needless to say, he is seen no more.

Fulham appears to be the latest district to be favoured with the attempts of these rogues. We hope they won't see this paragraph.

The Rev. A. Newman Guest, vicar of Stantonbury, presumably a ritualist in spiritual affinity with the Rev. Thomas Hill, who has attained notoriety as rector of Little Canfield, waves his sacerdotal stick about us in a threatening manner apropos our comments on the right claimed by the Little Canfield parson to force a girl into his private Confessional as a condition precedent to his publishing the banns of her marriage. Thus the stick: "Sir,—In the current JOHN BULL, *re* the Essex Publication of Banns Case, appears the statement that Confession (by which I presume the writer means Private and Sacramental Confession) is against the rule of the State Church. Now this is an amazing slip of the pen, and shows the truth that the scribe of JOHN BULL in this instance is a layman who has not only never been to Confession, but has not taken the trouble to read the Prayer Book. . . . I don't mind how much JOHN BULL castigates humbugs, but in this case it is in JOHN BULL, and it is *not* so. I commend your scribe not for his veracity, but for his audacity." True, we have never been to Confession, and never intend to go; but we have read the Prayer Book very often, and believe we know as much about it as even the Rev. A. Newman Guest.

First of all, we have to point out that the Church of England does not recognise any such thing as "Sacramental" Confession. There are two exceptional cases in which voluntary auricular Confession is provided for. One is where an intending communicant wishes to quiet his conscience previous to communion and obtain absolution "by the ministry of God's Holy Word"; the second, where a sick man may be "moved" to make confession of his sins if his conscience be troubled by them. Both confessions are voluntary, and are specially related to the circumstances. The Church has no authority to enforce either of them, or to require private Confession previous to receiving Communion; which is exactly what is alleged against the Little Canfield rector. This was the decision of the Special Committee of the Upper House of Convocation in 1873, and again that of the Lambeth Conference in 1878. Private Confession is unknown to the New Testament; it was unknown in the primitive Church; it disappeared except as a voluntary act from the Prayer Book after the revision of 1552. In a word, neither the rector of Little Canfield, nor any other priest of the Anglican communion, has any authority from the Prayer Book to impose confession on the members of the Church. It is obvious that we cannot use our columns to enter upon these sacerdotal controversies, but the literature of Confession and the Confessional in relation to the Prayer Book is at the service of any person or parson who, like the Rev. A. Newman Guest, dares to suggest that what has been said in JOHN BULL is *not* so.

Next week, we publish on Wednesday.

Whether Mr. Balfour's suggested Imperial aid for cotton-growing within the Empire be a mere election "bribe" or not, there is certainly something to be said for the idea—which, of course, is not new. Many parts of Greater Britain could grow cotton well enough if the culture were subsidised during the experimental stages. Until the areas of supply are increased, Lancashire even more than the rest of England must depend for the means of life on supplies raised by the foreigner. A spell of bad weather in the Southern States is fraught with tragedy for one of our greatest industries.

An example of the reckless fashion in which so-called "temperance" advocates wittingly or unwittingly distort the facts to "prove" their case is offered by the recent utterances of Dr. Moule, Bishop of Durham, at Westminster Abbey. While this country expends £150,000,000 on "indulgence in strong drink," said the Bishop, the United States, despite its larger population, spends only £70,000,000. As a matter of simple truth, the position is almost exactly the reverse; we spend £170,000,000, the United States spends £290,000,000. Someone has pointed this out to the Bishop, and he has issued a statement correcting his original error. This is to his credit; and we would that other teetotal orators when caught out would be as candid. However, we have no doubt that the Bishop's mistake will be given general currency on certain platforms, whilst his amende will be politely ignored. Any slip is good enough to whip the publican with.

An army, so the saying goes, marches on its belly, but it marches also on its feet. Bad boots went far to lose any chance the French ever had in the war with Germany; and that was only one instance in point. Therefore it is well that the Army Council should bestir itself on the question of the Territorials and their feet. It is even more important that they should bestir themselves in the right way, which would seem to be the provision of good boots similar to those worn by the regular troops, either free or at cost price. Heretofore, many of the Territorials have suffered considerably from the use of pointed boots. No boot in this form has ever yet been invented in which men could march effectively for a single day, let alone many days on end. Square toes may not be pretty. But then, war is not a pretty business; and if the Territorials are to be real soliders, mere smartness in appearance on parade must take a back seat.

Here is serious news. The date of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race will fall this year in Holy week. We read, however, that "the University authorities have sanctioned the race," but "on the distinct understanding that no dinner is to be held and that the club does not accept any invitation to a music-hall." We must have a Cambridge branch of the John Bull League.

Have you ever heard of a "Drunk or Sober" service? We have before us a Salvation Army handbill inviting men to come at 11 o'clock at night, "drunk or sober," and "hear their mates preach." We are sure the invitation is well meant, but we really do not think any good would be done by preaching to men in a state of alcoholic obfuscation. Much better put them to bed.

Who says that the imminence of a General Election is bad for all kinds of business? We clip the appended advertisement from a Midland paper:—

> Vote for the Mid-Division.—Three Cottages for Sale. Tenanted and in good repair. Gross rentals £29 6s. Price £30 each.—Write, etc.

Who would not buy a stake in the country on these terms—a vote in the Mid Division and an investment yielding nearly £30 gross on an outlay of £90 only? It looks dirt cheap! The present owner is probably a reduced Duke. Poor chap!

By the way, why will a few of the Dukes go out of their way so needlessly to embitter feeling against their class? A Bucks reader tells us of a peculiarly finicking case of interference with the enjoyment of a countryside. "About two miles from anywhere," he says, "there are certain delightful woods through which the public have a right of way—so long as they do not sit down. Should they recline for a moment on the inviting banks that line the rides, they are ordered brusquely by his grace's keepers to 'move on.' Possibly," our correspondent thinks, "someone at some time may have lifted a rabbit or a bird, whilst pretending to take his ease on a mossy knoll. But it seems hard that all comers should be penalised for ever in consequence." It does, especially as a walk from the nearest township to and through and from the woods seems to be a matter of five or six miles.

Cook and Peary must look to their laurels. A leading article in a Bengali paper calls attention to the fact that neither of them is the discoverer of the North Pole. Dhruva, a five-year-old son of Raja Uttanpat, was led to the Pole 4,000 years ago by the Nindu saint Nurad, who, at the bidding of Vishnu, took this five-year-old explorer and enthroned him on this chilly seat. He has remained there ever since. The Calcutta newspaper in question bitingly remarks:—"He walked on without sledges driven by dogs or guides like the Eskimos. He wanted no tinned meat, no sealskin to chew, and no bear's grease to satisfy his hunger, because by the grace of God he did not feel its pangs." It therefore calls upon His Majesty King Edward to "stop Cook and Peary talking nonsense."

We are delighted to learn that our recent exposure of the condition of things on some of our big transports has borne good fruit. One soldier, writing us, says: "I thank you most sincerely for the article—which was the motive power in getting a long-needed reform." Cheers.

When Lord Lansdowne gave notice of his amendment the *Star* announced that "Civil war" had "broken out." The morning after the amendment had been carried by a huge majority, we looked anxiously for the Contents Bill of our energetic and sprightly contemporary, expecting to read "Civil war—bloodshed and loss of life." What was it we did read? "Jeffries and Johnson—choosing the pitch"!

It used to be said that when a politician's name got into *Punch*, he had "arrived." Nowadays, the test is the publication of his speeches. We have before us a volume, just published, of the oratorical achievements during the past four years of Mr. F. E. Smith. They are excellent reading and should constitute a *vade mecum* for Unionist candidates at the forthcoming election. What a lot he has said, to be sure. And it isn't only what he has said—but the nasty way he has sometimes said it.

It seems that the complications of modern politics have involved even the Parliamentary barber. When the Tories were in, they used to pay him sixpence for a shave; since the awful Radicals have been in, they have reduced his fee to threepence. "It was the very first thing they did when they came into power," he told the judge at Westminster County Court the other day. But he carries on the business still, doubtless thanking heaven that we have a House of Lords. "I'm waiting for better times," he said; for tariff reform, in fact. If he doesn't get it, the blood of the Radicals will be on their own heads—or throats. At any rate, their fate is in his hands.

Bad news reaches us from Banffshire. John Bull has been taken off the list at the Keith Public Library. And just as we were doing so well, too!

Apropos our recent warning against missionary societies in Africa, a reader tells us that if we will refer to what he describes as the "great authority" of a work by Dr. Kidd on the "Essential Kafir," we shall see that we are wrong in our views. We may be, but we don't like the name of the authority.

On what system is the Board of Trade proceeding in its acquisition of premises for the provincial Labour Exchanges? There seems to be excellent reason for asking this question. From a Midland town we hear that two shops in a main street have been bought from a prominent Liberal, when equally central premises, quite as well situated, but off the great thoroughfares, could have been obtained more cheaply. A Northern Distress Committee has formally protested against the waste of money on an "unsuitable situation"; and there may be others. Mr. Winston Churchill, if not a business man, is a shrewd one; and we would suggest that he should ask a question or two of his permanent officials on the subject.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

The jury had been locked up for several hours, and the Judge sent for them and asked whether there was anything else he could say to help them. "No, my Lord," replied the Foreman; "we're all unanimous but one." "Then you must make him unanimous, as well," jocularly replied the Judge. But hours passed by, and still no verdict. Then his Lordship sent again for the twelve good men and true, and intimated that unless a verdict were returned within a quarter of an hour he would have to leave the Court and the jury would be locked up all night. Within a minute of the time-limit, the bell rang. The usher disappeared, and a moment later the jury filed into the box, dragging one of their number, in a battered and half-dazed condition, on their shoulders. "He's unanimous now, my Lord," said the Foreman.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE KEYNSHAM GUARDIANS, BRISTOL, WHO HAVE REFUSED TO ALLOW HALF A PINT OF BEER TO THE INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE AT CHRISTMAS.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For announcing: "Free Lecture: Subject: 'The Wicked shall be turned into HELL.' ALL WELCOME,"
THE CHRISTADELPHIANS
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

*For advertising: "*BABIES *with* MOTHERS IN ARMS, *Half-price,"*
CHRIST CHURCH (Birmingham)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For alluding to "*FOOTMARKS *upon the* UNTRODDEN *snow,"*
MRS. BAILLIE REYNOLDS IN *THE STORY-TELLER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For advising people to "*STAND UP *straight when walking or* SITTING,"
HEALTH AND STRENGTH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For advertising "*RABIES *are specially near and dear to Nature,"*
THE ICILMA CO.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the prisoner got a pint of porter and a GLASS *and drank* THEM,"
THE DUBLIN EVENING TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "a detective stated that all three prisoners pleaded guilty to stealing SHOPLIFTERS,"
THE PEOPLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that "*LADIES *who are wise generally wear black, white, or grey gowns, and on some occasions one see white silk stockings with satin* BREECHES,"
THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the pastor's little son was HELD UP *to receive a kiss from the Mayoress—a privilege which our representative also obtained."*
THE WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For heading the announcement of an execution as: "Date of EXCURSION,"
THE NORFOLK CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For writing to the Guardians: "Can you find me a wife? It must be a FEMALE,"
A FORMER INMATE OF PAGNELL WORKHOUSE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing outside their premises that "we all came into the world for 9d. and one old record,"
PETERS AND SON (of Margate)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For intimating that blankets would not be given out until the following week, and then announcing the hymn "Christians, seek not yet repose,"
AN EXETER VICAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its issue of December 2nd that "Second Lieutenant H. L. Wheatley, of the Yorkshire Regiment, has been run over by a TRAMWAY *in Cairo and killed,"*
THE EVENING STANDARD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For heading the report of a meeting, "The Veto of the Lords must be FINALLY *ended,"*
THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P.

MY ELOQUENT VOCIFERATOR,—Though I am well aware that you are rather busy just now, I wish you would spare a moment or two to consider whether the time has not arrived for a thorough inquiry into the state of our Coastguard service. I have serious reasons for thinking that it is very far from being efficient. In North Devon the feeling against the Coastguards has assumed the proportions of widespread indignation. If you will be good enough to glance through the evidence at the inquest on one of the victims of the ill-fated *Thistlemor*, lost with twenty lives off Clovelly, and then carefully weigh all that was said at the Bideford indignation meeting, you will probably come to the same conclusion.

There is no question that the vessel sent up its rockets throughout the night until they were exhausted, and then burned flares. Whether or not the Coastguards between Clovelly and Peppercombe were asleep, or whether seeing the rockets they took no notice of them, I cannot say. But at 4 o'clock in the morning the Coastguard at Peppercombe, possibly awakening from his forty winks, did see two white flares on the sea. He could not make them out as signals of distress, he says, so he rang up the Coastguard at Clovelly. Clovelly told him to "ring up again if he saw any more." Again and again after that he saw the flares, but ringing up Clovelly he could not get any answer. What did he do then? He did nothing. And, slowly, while these Coastguards were busy with their masterly inactivity, the ship was settling down. Every wasted second was bringing the agonised men aboard her nearer to their graves in the pitiless waters about them. So at last came the end; the flares of the *Thistlemor* were seen no more, and twenty men took their last view of the sky above them and the coast lights of their native land. Here, sir, was neglect, or indifference, or blundering. The lives of those men are on the conscience of the Coastguard service of England.

I am not alone in doubting the adequacy and efficiency of the service. "Everyone is sick of it," said the coroner. "Men face to face with death on sinking ships might as well take a box of sulphur matches and burn them for all the notice that is taken of their signals," he added. Is there nothing the Board of Trade can do at once—even if some of your speeches have to be given the go-by?

JOHN BULL.

To Admiral F. A. Close, Clifton Down, Bristol.

DEAR ADMIRAL,—Cannot you oppose the Budget without making a public parade of your meanness? I notice the conscious pride of your announcement that you have "given notice" to your coachman and gardener that if the Budget becomes law you "will perhaps be obliged to shut up your stables and glass-houses, and they and their families will have to join the army of the unemployed." If you like to make an undignified spectacle of yourself before your servants in your own house, that is your own affair; but why call all your fellow townsmen to witness that you are endeavouring to influence their votes by threats—that you are holding your revolver at their heads, and warning them that it they don't vote as you expect them to do you will fire? And, by the way, supposing the Government were to threaten you that if the Budget *didn't* pass you would get no more half-pay, or retired pay, or pension out of the Treasury, how would *you* feel about it, my breezy son of the sea?

JOHN BULL.

To the Earl of Rosebery, Berkeley Square, W.

ETERNAL QUERY,—I agree with almost everything you say and with nothing you do. Thus, I am convinced of the accuracy of your statement that "General Elections are not conducted in the Palace of Truth." They are conducted in the Sanctuary of Lies, where all communications on political and fiscal business should be addressed. JOHN BULL.

To the Earl of Mayo, Stratford Place, Oxford Street, W.

DEAR MY LORD,—It will, perhaps, surprise you to learn that I read your speech in the House of Lords concerning myself. "Rejection of the Budget," you told their lordships, "will not mean chaos; John Bull will eat his Christmas dinner and kiss his wife as usual." It affords me pleasure to state that your lordship is an excellent guesser—at any rate, so far as the dinner is concerned. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Councillor Church, Ilford, Essex.

DEAR FRIEND,—Why, oh why, did you do it? Consider all the trouble you have brought upon yourself. Consider the distress you have given to the dear brethren. Consider how nearly you compromised the London Evangelisation Society in its precious mission. You are well known in Ilford and Barkingside as a gentleman who concerns himself with saving the souls of other people. You had been announced to take the chair at the Sunday evening service of the London Evangelisation Society, and yet you so far forgot what was necessary to the salvation of your own soul, and so far forgot what was due to the susceptibilities of the extremely pious, that you went with your colleagues of the Council to inspect the local music-hall, and it was even rumoured that you had stayed to see the delirious dance, and hear the subtle song, and watch the pretty pictures. Though you did not steep yourself in sin to this extent, but left the abode of heinous earthly pleasure before the performance, all the very good in Ilford were terribly shocked, and it was felt that you were no longer a fit and proper person to take the chair at the Sunday evening service of the London Evangelisation Society. By this time, dear friend, I hope you have made your peace with it and it with you. But let your punishment be a warning to you to eschew for the future the inspection of music-halls, lest you be altogether cast out from the communion of the saints.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Public Control Committee, London County Council.

SIR,—I notice that, on the recommendation of your Committee, the London County Council have authorised a British Petroleum Company to store 270,000 gallons of petroleum at riverside premises in Stevenage Road, Fulham, a densely-populated district, and within 150 yards of a County Council school. You will permit me to say, sir, that I am delighted I do not live in those parts; if I did, I should take an early opportunity of moving out—after paying my rent, if possible, but at any rate moving out—for in my view the adequate enjoyment of life largely consists in minimising the risks of it. When I realise what a man sitting on a cask of petroleum can accomplish by lighting his pipe when nobody is looking—well, as long as your Committee don't own any property in the neighbourhood and haven't any poor relations they would like to miss one of these Christmas mornings, perhaps it doesn't really matter, after all. As the gifted poet has it, "Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you." I'm looking for a suitable site for a cordite factory. Does your Committee know of anything in Park Lane or Piccadilly?

JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Creese, J.P., Magistrates' Court, Willesden.

DEAR DOCTOR,—I haven't failed to notice the case of George Williams, up before you and your colleagues for hawking without a licence, and not convicted for that heinous offence. On the contrary, as George will be entitled to an old-age pension in twelve months from date, you bought him a pedlar's certificate so that he could keep himself out of the workhouse. Good, my son! My benediction with you.

JOHN BULL.

To the Board of Guardians, Nantwich, Cheshire.

GENTLEMEN,—That resolution of yours to give the men who enter your casual wards during the winter months bread and water only in exchange for their labour in sawing your wood is a bit brutal, isn't it? You get about £100 a year for the wood, and, to put this question of diet on the lowest grounds, it appears to me that to substitute a pint of hot gruel for the water wouldn't bring the ratepayers appreciably nearer the Bankruptcy Court than they are at present. The fact is, gentlemen, this sort of thing is a wild revenge on out-of-works and social outcasts for daring to seek the shelter of the casual ward; and the tongue of your chairman, Mr. W. J. Dutton, must have been in his cheek when he seemed to find comfort for his conscience in the saying which is written, "Thy bread shall be given and thy water shall be assured." In the circumstances, I am surprised he did not propose an addendum to the resolution that this Spiritual promise should be inscribed over the portals of Nantwich workhouse.

JOHN BULL.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION AT BIRMINGHAM.

The President's visit to Birmingham had been eagerly anticipated, and despite the miserable weather, which is becoming customary on the occasions of League meetings, an enormous crowd assembled outside the Town Hall some hours prior to the commencement of the proceedings. Long before the President took the chair every inch of space within the handsome building was occupied, and large numbers were disappointed in obtaining admission. During the interval of waiting, a splendid selection of music was given by The Henry Riley Military Band, and Miss May Selber, the charming contralto, who is so well known throughout the Midlands, delighted her audience with several songs, which were repeatedly encored. The President's appearance on the platform, punctually at 8 o'clock, was the signal for a great demonstration, the applause with which he was greeted being continued for some minutes. He commenced his address by reminding the meeting that the objects of the League had received the enthusiastic endorsement of enormous gatherings in London, Glasgow, Cardiff and Manchester, and he ventured to hope that Birmingham, as one of the greatest business centres of the Empire, would not be behind the other cities he had mentioned. He then dealt at some length with social, political and religious questions of the day, applying the principles of the League to them in a manner which called for repeated applause. He delighted his audience with some amusing illustrations of the working of the party machine in the House of Commons, and his graceful reference to Birmingham's greatest citizen aroused a perfect outburst of enthusiasm, which was repeated when he said that the discussions and struggles of the past session had revealed to many members of Parliament that in his son there was a prospect of a man not less worthy of taking a prominent place in the councils of the country. Referring to questions which Mr. Bottomley said would be engrossing their attention so soon as the Christmas turkeys and mince pies had been digested, he gave his ideas of how the business man would reply to the arguments of Tariff Reformers, Free Traders, and Socialists. He contended that the business man would say to the Socialists that neither land nor capital was worth a fig without intelligence and enterprise, and that while the State should control all the public services of the country, he preferred that he and his family should be left alone. He would say, "Give me equal laws, equal liberties with the rest of my fellow men, cheap food, decent housing and the opportunity for honest work, and leave me alone: I am a Briton"—a statement which brought down the house.

Mr. Bottomley held his audience for upwards of an hour and never relaxed his grip. He was in excellent voice, and his speech was punctuated by many outbursts of applause. On resuming his seat, after a most eloquent peroration, the enthusiasm of the audience found its vent in another great ovation. The League badge was very much in evidence, and a large number of new members were enrolled.

North-East London Meeting.

As will be seen by the announcement on the front page of this issue, the President will conclude his tour with a Mass Meeting to be held at the King's Hall, Hackney, on Friday next. The Imperial Military Band, which was so much appreciated at the Inaugural Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, will render selections of music, and the John Bull League Song will again be sung by Mr. Leo Stormont.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM.—League going stronger than ever. Everybody anxious to see humbug and cant stamped out. The general meeting held in the Town Hall on December 10th has aroused the greatest enthusiasm.

BRONDESBURY AND WILLESDEN.—Membership here continues to increase, and many pressing invitations have been forwarded to the President to address a mass meeting in the district.

CARDIFF.—Our President's visit has aroused widespread enthusiasm, and many of the principal business men of the city are putting their heads together with a view of consummating the vast possibilities opened up by his able exposition of the League's aims. The Press now recognises our existence and the *Western Mail* gives favourable mention of our great gathering.

EDINBURGH.—The League is making great strides here, although as far as the city press is concerned it is to a great extent ignored. It will doubtless, however, soon realise that the era of common sense has dawned, and fall in with the movement. Badges here are very plentiful.

ELLAND (Yorks).—Our correspondent here suggests that the League should keep an eye on some of the members of the Board of Guardians who opposed the use of *one* bottle of brandy for the Christmas pudding of the Workhouse inmates. It is however pleasing to note that Stiggins was defeated on this occasion.

HACKNEY.—We are gaining a very large number of recruits here, and "Bullites" with their neat little badges are to be seen everywhere. We shall soon have the satisfaction of again returning to Parliament a Business Man to what we hope will prove to be a Business Government.

LEICESTER.—The League continues to grow in the locality, and badges are becoming quite fashionable; in fact, it is hardly possible to board a tramcar without seeing one in evidence.

MERTHYR.—Members are gradually increasing in numbers, and the Cardiff meeting has greatly assisted our progress.

PENZANCE.—Interest in the League and its official organ is well maintained, and a visit from the President is eagerly anticipated.

PORTOBELLO.—The League has been enthusiastically received here, as the Stiggins-like attitude of the Town Council in preventing bands from playing in the public parks, etc., on Sundays has created much dissatisfaction in the minds of a large section of the ratepayers.

SHEFFIELD.—At the present time Sheffield is impatiently waiting the inaugural meeting of the League to form a local branch. When this takes place—we hope very shortly—it will give a great filip to the movement, as the thousands of readers of JOHN BULL here are only waiting to be banded together, and the local press, which is very quiet over the matter, will then wake up to the importance of the League.

SUNDERLAND.—The sale of JOHN BULL increases every week—a fact which is doubtless attributable to the growth of the League. The neighbouring city of Newcastle is also very energetic in promoting our propaganda.

SUTTON.—Steady progress is still being made in this district, and several new members have been added this week, and badges are becoming more apparent day by day.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—In this district it is becoming more and more evident that the popularity of the League is gaining ground. Nearly everyone here reads JOHN BULL, which journal is in evidence in all the cafés, and, in fact, everywhere business men congregate.

WIGAN.—We have fairly caught the John Bull League fever here, and are settling down to good solid business. Our first district meeting is arranged for the last week in December.

Good reports also reach us from Chatham, Clapton, Walsall, Kennington, Hull, Aintree, Penarth, Glamorgan, Walthamstow, Leicester, Anerley, Scarborough, Shepherd's Bush, Bridlington, Dover, Deal, Ipswich, Gorton, Carron-by-Falkirk, etc.

NORTH-EAST LONDON MEETING.

The production of this copy of "John Bull" will secure admission to the above meeting.

Members producing their badges will be entitled to Reserved Seats.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Please enrol me as a Member of the JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

BRUNNER, MOND AND CO.

TYPICAL FREE TRADERS.

Anyone who knows anything about existing joint stock companies knows Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd., as one of the most prominent examples of what may be done for shareholders by the joint-stock system. The Company was formed 28 years ago to take over the business of the firm of the same name, as alkali manufacturers. The basis of the fortune of the Company, as of the firm, was the right to use the Solvay ammonia soda process. The financial career of the Company has been one of unbroken success. Its dividends have never fallen below 30 per cent. For the half-year ended June, 1893, it paid 100 per cent. For the year ended 1905-6 it paid 68⅔ per cent. It has an authorised capital of three millions, and its £1 shares cannot be bought for less than £5. It is in every way not only a prosperous and well-managed, but a highly respectable Company, and nothing will be said in this article to suggest the contrary. Our object in directing attention to the Company is not to criticise it as a business organisation, but to contrast its financial policy with that which in the political world finds favour with its Chairman, Sir John Brunner.

Theory and Practice.

In his speech at Newcastle Mr. Lloyd George reminded his audience that the Liberal Party includes many leading and wealthy commercial men, and he argued from this, as was natural enough, that the policy advocated by his Party could not be so very dangerous or revolutionary if it did not frighten these great commercial magnates into leaving it. That, of course, is a telling argument. But not perhaps so telling upon examination as it appears to be upon the surface. For as the record of Brunner, Mond and Co. conclusively proves, a man may be a very pronounced Free Trader upon the platform and a very rigid Protectionist in his business methods. Probably there is no more prominent Free Trader in the Liberal Party as now constituted than Sir John Brunner. In season and out of it he proclaims the merits of Free Trade, and denounces with quite exceptional warmth the fallacies of Protection. But when it comes to his own business a very different tale is told. Let us glance at the methods that commend themselves to Brunner, Mond and Co.—methods which are perfectly justifiable from their point of view, but which are impossible to reconcile with the theories of an ardent Free Trader.

Conditions of Business.

As we have said, the core of the business of Brunner, Mond and Co. is the Solvay ammonia soda process, invented many years ago by F. van der Straeten-Solvay, who sold the patent rights, in so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, to Brunner, Mond and Co. The soda ash obtained from the Solvay ammonia process is essential to the production of soap, paper and many other articles in large demand in this and other countries. The rights of Brunner, Mond and Co. are confined to the United Kingdom, those for Belgium, Germany, France and other countries having been sold under very rigid conditions. The inventor's object was to maintain the monopoly not only in one country but in all, and in this way to keep up prices. Accordingly, whilst Brunner, Mond and Co. have the right to supply those who want soda ash in the United Kingdom, they are prohibited from exporting it. They will not quote for any part of the Continent, or America, or Japan, since that is ground covered by their friends abroad. M. Solvay has works at various places on the Continent, and the alkali sold by him to dealers has to be guaranteed not for exportation, and if used for the manufacture of soda crystals a guarantee is required that the crystals shall not be exported to England. Dealers in England buying the soda ash can only do so under the following remarkable conditions:—

(1) They must undertake that the soda ash is not for exportation.

(2) That it is not to be used in the manufacture of soda crystals which Brunner, Mond make.

(3) That it is not to be sold to any firm to whom Brunner—Mond have supplied anything.

(4) That the customer's original order to the merchant must be submitted to Brunner—Mond and initialed before they will supply the merchant.

(5) That the merchant undertakes not to re-sell to another dealer and leaves his books open to the inspection of Brunner—Mond.

What do our readers think of these conditions as insisted upon by Sir John Brunner, Free Trade advocate?

Crushing Competition.

Some 18 months ago works were started at Lostchock, Graylan, in Cheshire, with the object of competing against Brunner, Mond and Co. in the production of soda. The new company sold at £4, as against Brunner—Mond's £4 4s. Brunner, Mond have since dropped 10s. per ton, and their young rivals have serious difficulties to face. They find themselves surrounded by Brunner—Mond, who have bought a large area of ground to encircle them. One of the troubles in this sort of works is to get rid of impurities Brunner, Mond and Co. put them into the river. It may be asked what the authorities are doing to allow this.

Troublesome Neighbours.

Brunner—Mond's neighbours are apt to find them a little troublesome at times. In Cheshire the Company erected a pumping engine on the deepest portion of the salt bed, and were found to have been taking the brine from the property of the Salt Union. Action was brought against Brunner—Mond, and the case was taken to the House of Lords, but it was decided then in favour of the Company, it being held that there is no right in brine. Not long ago a merchant bought some soda ash in Michigan and got it away through Canada, but he only managed to smuggle out one parcel. The agents of Brunner—Mond discovered what was being done and quickly put a stop to it. They have detectives everywhere. In Belgium, for instance, they have a man whose duty it is to inspect the trucks of goods for exportation, and if there is any doubt enquiry is at once made and the goods are traced. Nobody ventures to oppose them. There are still good lands available in this country for the manufacture of soda ash, the conditions necessary in the purchase of land being that there should be salt underneath, easy facilities for raw and manufacturing material, and for shipping and delivering material, a fresh water supply, and means of disposing of the waste material—the most serious point in the whole business. But capital is not to be got for such enterprises, since it would mean fighting Brunner, Mond and Co., and no capitalists in this, or apparently any other country have the courage to do this.

We have said enough to show how Sir John Brunner and his Company work the soda ash monopoly.

A Manufacturer's View of It.

The following remarks of a chemical manufacturer upon the position seem to us to be well founded:—

> "It is some few years ago that Messrs. F. W. Berk and Co., of 1, Fenchurch Avenue, offered me the same chemical as that made by Messrs. Brunner, Mond, and Co. at a lower price, and which was to be shipped to this country from America. A little later a similar offer was made by another Mincing Lane firm to be shipped from the Continent. In each case just before the deal was completed both these people informed me that arrangements had been made with Messrs. Brunner, Mond, and Co. that prevented the chemical coming into this country. If you make inquiries of other chemical brokers in Mark Lane and Mincing Lane I feel sure you will be surprised at the perfect system of protection Messrs. Brunner, Mond, and Co. have built up. I also know something of the manner in which they have bought brine land and other property in Cheshire to prevent others working a similar process in this country, and those who have already tried to have had bitter experience of the methods that have been adopted. While in many respects I appreciate the advantages of Free Trade, I look upon anyone with contempt who practises such a form of protection as the company I have above mentioned, and yet subscribes so liberally to Free Trade funds and advocates in public life principles entirely contrary to their own business methods."

Tackled on the subject some time ago, and taunted with the contrast between his profession as a Free Trader and his practice as a manufacturer, Sir John Brunner very frankly said much as Sir Thomas Jackson said in the case of the Shanghai Bank, that he has to throw over his political principles in favour of his shareholders. That is fair and above board, but it serves to illustrate the discrepancy between Free Trade theories and commercial facts.

The Chief Steward of the Cross-channel Steamship *Onward* tells us that on December 8th, at the Sailors' Institute, Boulogne, one of the company rendered with great success the John Bull League Song.

A practical shaving instrument, guaranteed to give a perfect shave, finished like a piece of fine jewellery —what can be more appropriate than the

AutoStrop SAFETY RAZOR

as a man's gift!

It is far quicker, handier, and cheaper than a no-stropping razor—gives an easy and luxurious shave —obviates the continual expense for new blades necessary with ordinary safety razors.

You cannot strop it wrongly.

Insert the strop in the AutoStrop Safety Razor — move the razor to and fro—the blade reverses automatically at the end of each stroke, thus stropping itself—in an instant you have a keen edge. Nothing to take apart to or strop clean.

AutoStrop Standard Set—consists of self-stropping razor, quadruple silver-plated; one dozen AutoStrop blades of finest specially tested lancet steel, each in damp-proof envelope; one certified horse-hide strop, the whole contained in neat black leather-covered case, velvet lined. Size 2 in. by 3½ in. Price complete **21/-** NET.

AutoStrop Tourist Set No. 6.—A complete and very compact shaving outfit, including self-stropping razor, quadruple silver-plated; one dozen AutoStrop blades of finest, specially tested lancet steel (each blade in damp-proof envelope); certified horse-hide strop; heavily silver-plated soap tube, with stick of finest shaving soap; heavily silver-plated tube with badger hair shaving brush: in fine black leather, velvet lined case. Size 3½ in. by 5 in.

Price **32/-** NET.

Other Special Gift Sets from 26/- to 57/6.

To be had at any high-class dealers'

Illustrated Description Free—Address Dept. H.

AutoStrop Safety Razor Co. Ltd.
61 New Oxford Street, London, W.C.
Also at Dublin, Paris, New York and Montreal.

Your dealer will gladly demonstrate the AutoStrop Safety Razor to you.

HIRAM PERCY MAXIM, Esq., inventor of the famous Maxim Silencer, etc., and eminent mechanical engineer, says: "I have shaved with one AutoStrop blade 131 consecutive shaves and consider the AutoStrop is the only safety razor that is mechanically perfect and practical.

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXX.

HOW THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL TREATS ITS SERVANTS OF THE HUMBLER SORT.

John Barrett has put his case before us and we think the public ought to be made acquainted with it, or rather his case has been put before us by his wife, for John Barrett himself is lying on a bed of sickness, which it is to be feared he will leave only for the grave. His wife seems a very worthy woman, and they have nine children, of whom only two are earning anything. Here are the facts.

For some eleven years John Barrett was a driver on one of the trams on the North Metropolitan system. Three or four years ago this system was taken over by the L.C.C., and from that time until September 23rd last, Barrett was a driver in the employment of the Council. His record with the North Metropolitan Tramways Company was excellent, and up to the time of the occurrences to which we are about to refer, it was equally good with the L.C.C.

On September 23rd, 1908, Barrett was driving an electric car from Highgate to Holborn, when suddenly it got beyond control. Flames issued from the controller box, burning Barrett's coat and singeing his hair. He managed to bring the car to a standstill within six inches of another car, also full of passengers, which was standing stationary at the Nag's Head, Holloway Road. The car was then emptied and got back to the depot, where it was discovered that the power finger inside the controller box was broken.

The shock caused Barrett to feel ill, but he continued at his work for ten days after the accident. Then, whilst proceeding on the same road from Highgate to Holborn, his sight suddenly failed him; upon going to a doctor he was told that he was suffering from a serious illness, brought on by a violent shock to the system. For three weeks Barrett remained on half-pay, and then he went to work again, but he was never the same man afterwards. Examined again by the Council's Medical Officer, Dr. Colley, he was told to resume his employment upon the horse cars. Barrett told the doctor he did not feel safe in driving again, but the doctor seemed to think he would do right enough on a horse car. Accordingly Barrett took over horse car work, but he was constantly ill two or three days a week. One day he was told that he must either go to work or be dismissed, and although hardly able to stand, he turned out and worked for a couple of days, when another serious accident occurred. Barrett was again injured, and although there can be no doubt that he was not in a fit state to drive on the day in question, the Council decided that he had been guilty of negligence, and dismissed him. This was in March last, and from then until now he has been unable to obtain employment. Indeed, he is now no longer fit for employment, being unable to leave his bed, his illness being due to the accidents described above.

How can the Council justify its action towards Barrett? He was injured in the Council's employment, but the Council have given him no compensation. It is true that he can appeal to the law to right his wrong. As a matter of fact he intends to do so, if he lives, and can scrape together the money; but surely it is discreditable that he should be compelled to do so.

If any of our readers can help Barrett in his trouble we shall be happy to be the medium of forwarding their gifts to him.

With reference to Human Document LXVI., we have received the following postal order, which has been forwarded to the writer:—5s. from N.

Messrs. Adam and Chas. Black send us that indispensable handbook to business men, "Who's Who," which makes its reappearance for 1910 in enlarged form. The already enormous list of names has been further extended, while a marvellous amount of information is compressed into tabloid form. It is a wonderful ten-shillingsworth.

"Who's Who Year-Book," 1s. net, consisting of an amplification of the tables relating to all sorts of interesting and useful subjects which were formerly bound up with the parent volume "Who's Who," is also one of those works which no one can afford to be without; while the "Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory," at 2s. 6d., gives much valuable information regarding women's work in all spheres, and the "Writers' and Artists' Year Book" performs a similar useful function for those interested in literary and artistic matters.

YOUTHFUL FABIANS—OR EMBRYO SOCIALISTS.

By an Individualist.

Most people have heard of the existence of the Fabian Society, named after Fabius Maximus, the celebrated Roman Consul and Dictator. This gentleman earned the name of Cunctator, or the Man Who Always Bides His Time, by his successful war policy of always avoiding a direct conflict with his enemy. The Fabian Society exists for the hero worship of its leading members and for the purpose of advancing Socialist ideas.

It is not so generally known that attached to this Society is a school of youthful enthusiasts, whose ardour for the causes advocated by the Mother Society is only exceeded by their palpable ignorance.

The three fundamental aims of these embryo Socialists are:—

(1) To endeavour to have as high an opinion of G.B.S. as has Mr. Bernard Shaw.

(2) To accept whole-heartedly any cause or reform advocated by Mr. Sidney Webb.

(3) To believe that the only fault of Mr. H. G. Wells is that he has severed his connection with the Fabian Society.

The methods of training usually adopted are:—

(1) To limit rigorously one's reading to the works of Fabian authors.

(2) Never on any account to study history, and especially to ignore the French Revolution.

(3) To severely avoid all intercourse with more enlightened persons.

(4) To have no respect for the views or customs of the outside world.

Now, these budding Fabians are mostly recruited from the upper-middle classes, and many of them are decidedly well-to-do. Their one idea is that they are superior to, and independent of, ordinary mortals; that they are advanced and far more enlightened than the world outside their own little circle. This circle is limited both in numbers and knowledge, and it is hardly surprising, therefore, to find that its members are somewhat bumptious, narrow-minded and one-sided. Their studies are usually restricted to economics, viewed from the Socialist standpoint.

This is trivial. But there is a more serious side. Just as our friends have little respect for the feelings and opinions of outsiders, they have little care for the conventions of ordinary society. The feminine members of this community are mostly college students, or, at least, dabblers in economic studies; their home ties are usually nil, and their enfranchisement from domesticity is as great as their disdain for it. They despise the ordinary feminine duties of the home and, as a rule, hold extreme views as regards the relations between parents and children.

When young people holding these views congregate together, strict observance of every-day conventions can hardly be expected. But the question arises, "Are these budding extremists enabled by their prejudices and environment to invent a better code of conduct for governing the relations between the sexes than is provided by the ordinary unwritten laws of society?"

It is fast becoming a tenet of the Socialist creed that it is the duty of the individuals to provide children and the function of the community to provide for them. Also that men shall earn enough for themselves and women for themselves, so that their independence may be unimpaired by marriage; the State to provide for the offspring.

Happily, however, the home influences, though despised, are not entirely absent, and hence cases of serious defiance of accepted laws are not numerous. But it is an unhealthy atmosphere, and it is time that these youthful Fabians were watched and warned. Finally, let me give the following gems of advice:—

(1) Children should be treated as children until they are old and wise enough to be anything else.

(2) Children should be made to realise that the responsibilities of parents are not cast off with swaddling clothes.

(3) Children should not know anything about Socialism or any other "ism."

(4) Children should think before they speak and study before they hold views.

(5) When children are fully grown-up they should be allowed full liberty, and then, probably, they will have no desire to throw off the advice of their elders.

Have You Got This Book?

Messrs. J. S. FRY & SONS, Ltd., Bristol:

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TO THE MATURE BUSINESS MAN

the "BUSINESS Encyclopædia" will prove equally valuable; in it he can turn up without an instant's loss of time any one of the many points concerning money or business on which he lacks information. With this work beside him, the most diffident man may acquire confidence in his own capability, and, proceeding to put his ideas into practice, may make of his business life a sure success. It is knowledge that counts nowadays; the man who wants to succeed in business must have specialised business knowledge. Over 47,000 orders have already been received for the "BUSINESS Encyclopædia," the following well-known firms being amongst

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We have prepared a handsomely illustrated Book, "The Practical Book," which will be sent to you free of charge, and which will show you how necessary the "BUSINESS Encyclopædia' is to your success. It points out the danger to business men of their falling into a rut, and how to avoid this danger. It includes valuable specimen plates embodying J. Holt Schooling's comparative calculations as to the trade statistics of this and other countries, also facsimiles of useful business documents. And it will also tell you how to obtain the "BUSINESS Encyclopædia" for a first payment of 1/6 only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO.,
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Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

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THE PRESTON EPIDEMIC.

Just now Preston is suffering from an epidemic of scarlet fever, and the proceedings at the last meeting of the Town Council throw an instructive light upon the way in which infectious disease is dealt with by some sanitary authorities. At the meeting in question, Dr. Brown, the Chairman of the Health Committee, stated that it had traced the source of the epidemic to certain schools. The School Medical Officer was instructed to visit various schools, and at one of these a scholar was found suffering from scarlet fever in its most infectious stage. Enquiry showed that this boy had been attending school throughout his illness, and that during week-ends he was employed as latherer at a hairdresser's shop. His sister, who was attending the same school, and another boy attending a school outside Preston, were both found to be suffering from the disease. Out of school hours the second boy was engaged in selling milk. The Chairman of the Council in recounting these facts plaintively observed that he scarcely knew where they were or how far the disease had spread, and added that the question of proceeding against the parents of the sick children was under consideration.

But surely something more than that was necessary. With an epidemic of infectious disease raging in the town careful watch should have been kept over the school children. That this was not done at Preston is clear from the fact that at least three children in an acute stage of infection were in daily attendance at school with the certainty of infecting not only their school fellows, but also, in the case of the two boys, those members of the general community with whom they came n contact in the course of their lathering and milk-selling operations. If the schools had been kept under proper surveillance, it would not have been possible for these children to have continued in attendance in a serious stage of infection. There are, of course, always children in attendance at the elementary schools in the early stages of measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria and kindred complaints, and all the care in the world is powerless to prevent this state of affairs, deplorable though it be. But for a child to be allowed to attend school in the serious stage of an infectious and dangerous disease argues gross neglect on the part of the Authorities.

This Preston case, by the way, affords a curious commentary on the views of that section of School Medical Authorities who, in the face of constantly recurring new evidence, and the opinions of some of the most eminent members of the medical profession, persist in saying that the elementary schools play a very secondary part in the disseminating of infectious disease, and that existing measures are quite adequate to deal with the problem.

A HARD CASE.

The following case sent to us by a correspondent illustrates the necessity for amending the Pensions Act in an important particular. For seventy years a man of eighty-eight has been a decent citizen, contributing to the rates, and leading a blameless life. In his extreme old age, and with no relative able to give him all the comforts such age requires, he applies for the pension granted to those who have reached seventy. Yet because he has received from the parish two loaves per week for three years, this relief is refused him. Up to the age of eighty-five he contributed to the rates and taxes. Since then he has not been able to do so, and at eighty-eight he is refused a pension because necessity has compelled him to accept a little bread week by week from the Parish Authority. Our correspondent writes:—

> Should you appeal to the benevolent at this festive season on behalf of the deserving poor, I trust you will place on your list one whom I can recommend as a most deserving case, John Finch, age 88 (January. 1st He is now lying ill in bed. He applied through his daughter for an old age pension, on October 3rd, 1908, and received a reply from Whitehall, No. 116,998C., 1908, that under Section 1C.A., it was refused, although for over 70 years he has contributed his mite to the rates. This I consider is a point where it is extremely hard, and where the law might be altered in such cases which come to light. This man I have seen recently working to earn a few pence.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

THE IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY AND SMALL TRADERS.

A Nottingham correspondent sends us a circular which, as he contends, affords evidence of how little this company consider their customers when those customers are bound to buy their proprietary lines. In August last, Mr Louis Henry Dixon, of 6a, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham (trading as L. H. Dixon and Co.), cigar merchant and tobacconist, made a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of the creditors. The realisation of the estate proceeded satisfactorily, and an advantageous sale of the business was effected by the trustee. The creditors numbered thirty-nine, and their admitted claims amount to £514 10s. 7d. Of this number, thirty-eight creditors whose claims amount in all to £454 7s., signified their assent to the Deed of Assignment. The Imperial Tobacco Company, whose original claim for goods supplied amounted to £55 3s. 7d., alone dissented, and in due course filed a petition in bankruptcy. The Imperial Tobacco Company was informed by the Committee of Inspection of the wishes of the entire body of creditors (other than themselves), but notwithstanding the opposition of all the other creditors, the Imperial Tobacco Company insisted upon a Petition, and a Receiving Order was made on November 12th. Under the Deed of Assignment there would have been a fair dividend; in bankruptcy there will be nothing.

ONE LAW FOR THE RICH, AND ANOTHER—?

The man who sells halfpenny papers close to Piccadilly end of Burlington Arcade, and at times, the Dover Street Tube entrance, received a street corner tip on Duke of York Stakes day to back Buckstead. He scraped up 1s. and 2s. of a fellow paper-seller. He stood in the entry of a public-house close to Burlington Arcade, out of the rain and marked on a paper 3s. on Buckstead, to send to his small bookmaker. He was promptly seized by a man in plain clothes, taken to Vine Street, and afterwards fined £10 and costs, or two months. He could not possibly pay, and is now just out again, miserable and white, his wife and three children near starvation, and his stand and living gone. Is there one law for this man and another for the club member who plays all sorts of forbidden games in his club, baccarat, etc., right under the eye and knowledge of the police?

TRADE NOTES.

Messrs. T. J. and J. Smith send us a large selection of their well-known diaries, of all prices and sizes, which well maintain Messrs. Smith's high reputation in this branch of the publishing trade.

Another firm of Smith's—Tom Smith and Co., Ltd.—are also prominently before us at this season of the year with their celebrated crackers. These they market in almost incredible variety, but it is only necessary to say of them that they well maintain their superiority. "Tom Smith" is, indeed, the hall-mark of bonbons.

The "At-a-Glance" Calendar Publishing Company have also sent us a choice selection of their speciality—artistically got up calendars, fitted with a patent appliance by which any date can be marked out from the rest. They are certainly marvellous value for the low price placed upon them.

Free Amusement for Christmas Holidays.—Some capital fun and entertainment is to be obtained from "The Destiny Book," a beautifully illustrated little booklet, which enables readers to ingeniously foretell their future. "The Destiny Book" is published by Ashton and Parsons, Ltd. (proprietors of Phosferine), who are giving away an entire first edition as an advertisement. The book is just the thing for parties and the long winter evenings, so readers should promptly send a postcard for a free copy to "Destiny," Ashton and Parsons, Ltd., La Belle Sauvage, Ludgate Hill, London.

The Budget Crisis and Whisky By Post.—Messrs. John Somerville and Co., Ltd., the well-known Edinburgh distillers who sell their whiskies by post direct to consumers, have just made the interesting announcement that in the event of a new Government continuing the old duty on whisky (11s. per gallon) without increase, an allowance at the rate of 6d. per bottle will be made to all their customers whose orders are received from now onwards. For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with Messrs. Somerville's method of selling whisky, it may be mentioned that by sending a remittance for 12s. 6d. they will forward, post free, three bottles of their guaranteed 10-years-old Scotch whisky. This is but one example of the value they offer, as they have several whiskies of different ages at various prices.

THE MUSICAL EDUCATOR.

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Appreciations.

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

JUDGE AND EDITOR.

Our attention has been directed to the prosecution of the Editor of a contemporary, who was charged at the Birmingham Assizes, before Mr. Justice Pickford, with attempting to procure a post by threats. It appears that the accused, Mr. Plaisted, is Editor of *Insurance Truth*, and some time in the spring of the present year he endeavoured to obtain the reinstatement of a servant of the Liverpool Victoria Legal Friendly Society, one Hawkins, who some time previously had resigned his position as an agent of the Society. Mr. Plaisted wrote a letter to the Society, and this letter formed the subject of the charge. There does not seem to us to be anything criminal in it. Mr. Plaisted urged the reinstatement of Hawkins, and hinted that if it was refused "good may come of the matter being ventilated in the next issue of this paper." It was not suggested that Mr. Plaisted sought any advantage for himself other than what might indirectly accrue to him as Editor of the paper if its influence was proved to be sufficient to obtain or facilitate Mr. Hawkins' reinstatement. Even Mr. Justice Pickford, in charging the jury, said he did not believe accused knew he was committing an offence, and that there was nothing in the nature of blackmail in the transaction is sufficiently indicated by the sentence, which simply required Mr. Plaisted to enter into his own recognisances to come up for judgment if called upon, and to pay the costs of the prosecution. But, of course, the payment of costs is a serious punishment, and some of the comments of the Judge in the course of the trial seem difficult to explain. For example, Mr. Plaisted's counsel put it to the jury that the letter complained of was a courteous and respectful one, and should have induced a reply. The Judge referred to this in the summing-up, and said "a certain poet refers to 'the mildest-mannered man that ever scuttled ship or cut a throat,' but, gentlemen," with emphasis, "the throat was cut just the same." Was that a fair way to put a case of this kind to the jury? We should very much like to know under what statute the Editor of an Insurance Journal is barred from writing to an Insurance Company to suggest the reinstatement of a servant, or commits any punishable nce if he goes on to say that if reinstatement is refused the paper will make the matter a subject of comment.

PERJURY IN THE COURTS.

At the London Sessions a few days ago, Mr. Robert Wallace, K.C., referring to the prevalence of perjury in the Courts over which he presides, expressed the hope that the Treasury "will some day deem it their duty to make examples of the men who seem to think that because they are in a Criminal Court they are entitled to commit perjury." There can be no question that perjury is very common, indeed general, in the Courts of Law. Judges and Counsel, and everybody concerned in the administration of justice, admit it. The difficulty is to bring it home to the guilty parties, and it is this difficulty that to some extent explains and justifies the inaction of the Authorities. But it must, we fear, be admitted that the Authorities might do much more than they do. For example, on the same day that Mr. Wallace was speaking, Mr. Justice Warrington gave judgment in the case of the Rev. Chas. Leafe, Primitive Methodist Minister, of Oakfield Park, who had applied for the rectification of a Register. It is not necessary to enter into the details of the case, but we would direct special attention to certain observations of his Lordship, pre-eminently a man of guarded speech. Mr. Justice Warrington said that "he did not believe a word of what Mr. Leafe had stated with reference to the misrepresentations made at the interviews, and those misrepresentations in his opinion were not made." And again, "As the character of other persons had been impugned in this case he was bound to say that the statement of Mr. Leafe, that he was not in London on that day, was a deliberate lie." Here, a Chancery Judge of the highest eminence, speaking from the Bench, says that he is satisfied that the Rev. Chas. Leafe when testifying under oath deliberately lied. It is impossible to suppose that Mr. Justice Warrington would have charged him with perjury as he did if there had not been an extremely strong case in support of the charge. This, then, seems to be a case where the Authorities cannot avoid a prosecution.

JUDGES AND JURIES.

When will our Judges understand that in jury cases the members of the jury, and not they, are the judges, and the only judges, of fact? Great indignation exists in Birmingham at the present moment in consequence of certain comments made by Mr. Justice Jelf, after a jury of hard-headed business men had found a verdict for a schoolmistress in a case which involved the question of alleged improper relations between her and the headmaster. The evidence occupied several days, and after hearing and carefully considering it, the jury came to a conclusion favourable to the schoolmistress. We are not in any way concerned with the merits of the case, but what we do protest against is the theory that, after busy men had given up several days of their valuable time in the interests of justice and had returned a verdict according to their consciences—no question of corruption or anything of the sort being suggested—the Judge should not only discredit them, but deprive the successful litigant of the moral benefit of the verdict.

"A LITTLE BILL OF COSTS."

Several correspondents have written to us with respect to our paragraph under this title. Our correspondents are quite correct. The reference should have been to the High Court, not the County Court, but the comment as to the monstrous character of the charges is as applicable in the one case as in the other.

THE WINDING-UP DEPARTMENT.

We shall be surprised if the example of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Grantham in signing a circular as shareholders in the Law Guarantee Society, urging their fellow shareholders to oppose compulsory winding-up, on the ground of its manifold disadvantages, is not extensively followed by less exalted persons. What says the Senior Official Receiver? We seem to remember issuing a similar sort of circular once upon a time. But that's another story.

CAN IT BE TRUE?

Why do not Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Lawrance retire, and take the pensions to which they have for so long been entitled? Surely they are not waiting for a change of Government?

LEGAL ANSWERS.

INSURANCE.—STOCKPORT.—There is surely some mistake as to the amount due on the policies, as the premiums should cover a larger sum than £36. Life assurance on such terms is valueless. It would not be wise to surrender now, and your best course is to continue. We advise you to write to the company as to the terms. You would have done much better in the Post Office insurance scheme. G. A.—You should get the policies assigned to you and the transfer registered in the books of the company. This will necessitate a stamped deed.

GIFT OF POLICIES.—WALKER.—Do not rely on what the agent says, and write to the company for forms on which to transfer the policies. You, as executor, are entitled to them, and you can assign them by way of gift to the relative.

POWER TO MAKE WILL.—SCITHIAN.—It seems to us that James had a right to make such a will.

INSURANCE POLICY.—HOWE.—On the death of the wife the policy vested in you, and you should have it transferred into your name. Deal with the company direct in writing and not with the agent. On your death the money will go to your child, but you should make a will leaving it to her.

LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS.—GOWER.—The committee would not be liable for such mishaps as you name.

LODGER'S NOTICE.—SWINBURNE.—You are in the wrong. If you stayed on you were liable to pay at the increased charge, and she can summon you for the difference, as well as for money in lieu of notice. Modify your methods or alter your name.

FOREIGN PATENT LAW.—BULLITE.—You could not ascertain whether an idea has been patented abroad without very costly searches, which could only be done through patent agents. There is much information to be had in the Patent Office Library, Southampton Buildings, London.

GAS COMPANY'S POWERS.—W. J. R.—The company has power to do all that they are doing.

DIVISION OF PROPERTY.—ANXIOUS.—If the land is freehold it goes to the heir, but if the property is leasehold it is equally divided.

RAILWAY CHARGES.—BOYCE.—The company are bound to deliver the goods and not merely to bring them to the place in a van. They could not recover the extra van charges.

SURVEYOR'S INSTITUTE.—W. M.—A man can act as a surveyor without being a member of the Institute. No legal permit is required to carry on such a business. The judge might refer the matter to an arbitrator if both parties agreed. Your best course is to commence an action at once for the full amount.

RENT COLLECTOR.—AGENT (Kent.)—As the collector did not collect the rents weekly as directed you can dismiss him at once. You are entitled to recover from the incompetent workman the costs incurred in putting the work right.

NOTICE TO LANDLORD.—FARLEIGH.—The lessee is not entitled to such notice, but must reinstate the work forthwith.

CONTRIBUTION FOR INJURY.—W. H. B. (Yorks).—The local authorities appear to be liable, because they allowed an animal to be in the park which was in a dangerous condition. You could bring an action against them, but you must bring it within six months of the injury, and you must first give them an opportunity to compensate you. Send in your claim at once.

HIRE OF SEWING MACHINE.—J. T.—Your best course is to inform the company that the machine was obtained contrary to your wishes, and that your name was wrongly written on the form and was not signed by you. Say that you have requested the agent to remove the machine, and request them to do so, as he will not. Tell them the machine will be seized for rent if they do not fetch it away. You should inform your employers of the matter and then anticipate anything the machine people may do. If they summon you for the instalments you should defend the case.

THE "NEW IMPERIALISM" IN PRACTICE.

By L. W. RITCH,

Hon. Sec. South Africa British Indian Committee.

Whether regarded from the humanitarian or merely the Imperial point of view, the treatment to which the British-Indians of the Transvaal are being subjected constitutes nothing less than a disgraceful tragedy. Its tragic aspect is double-edged. Thousands of these harmless, peace-loving, law-abiding people, who originally made their homes in the late Transvaal Republic have been financially ruined and driven out of the country, or fined, imprisoned and deported, because they valued their self-respect and national honour more than they feared the penalties for disobedience of the un-British Registration and Immigration laws of the new Transvaal Colony. That is the tragedy as it affects the victims. Its effect—its inevitable reaction—upon the oppressors on the spot, and upon the responsible Ministers of this country who are tacitly responsible for it, is as yet with the gods, but the mills grind, be it ever so slowly, and the tares that are a-sowing in the name of the New Imperialism will render us a full return for our labour in due season. The disgrace is our disgrace alone, for the story of the Transvaal British-Indians is one long record of promises broken, trust betrayed, justice denied, liberty brutally immolated, at the bidding of political expediency.

Under the Boer *ægis*, certain disabilities were imposed upon the 15,000 British-Indians who resided in the land. They could not aspire to become burghers; they, alone, might not own fixed property; they were liable to residence in locations. But beyond the payment of a small entrance fee of £3 there was no restriction upon their free immigration, nor had they to carry upon their persons identification certificates most nearly approximating to the tickets-of-leave our authorities issue to criminals of a certain class. To-day, however, under the Government of this British colony, Indian immigration is absolutely prohibited. It matters not whether the would-be immigrant be morally and intellectually high or low, wealthy or a pauper, his Indian nationality and the colour of his skin are the grounds upon which he is classed with criminals, lepers, procurers and other "undesirables." The disabilities of Boer origin have been retained and rigorously enforced. And yet some people wonder why India is not more grateful for our fatherly protection of her children! No less insulting and degrading is the Registration law. Enacted in 1907, it imposes the bar sinister upon every British-Indian colonist. In spite of all assurances to the contrary, it can have been inspired but with one of two motives: to drive out the Indians who could not be shut out because they were already lawfully domiciled in the colony, or else to degrade them to the level of the Kaffir. It has partly succeeded in doing the one, but in driving the more stalwart into passive-resistance, it has welded Hindu, Mohammedan and Parsee into a concrete whole and has disclosed powers of co-operation and self-sacrifice hitherto unsuspected by the white colonists. The same men have gone to the gaols five or six times for terms of from three to six months' hard labour. Women have hawked fruit and vegetables to support themselves and their children, urging their husbands to forget them and go to prison rather than disgrace their nationality. The prisoners have endured incredible hardships, imposed in order to break down the passive-resistance campaign. And this has happened, and is still happening, beneath the shadow of the flag for which British-Indians have fought and died! This is the fulfilment of the pre-war pledges given by such responsible statesmen as Lord Lansdowne, Lord Selborne, Lord Milner and Mr. Chamberlain who, in 1899, so bitterly resented the indignities the Transvaal Republic dared to impose upon our Indian fellow-subjects that they held the war to be justified if only on these grounds! Is it surprising that the foreigner smiles when sincerity and disinterestedness are claimed for our treatment of the subject races? The burden of responsibility for this iniquity rests with the people of this county. Will they not insist that those who speak and act in their name shall right the wrong?

Can any of our readers give us particulars as to the people who are running the International Vi-Coal Company, of 21, Drake Street, Manchester?

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OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-Reported for JOHN BULL.)

BY RICHARD MORTON.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

POLICE AND PUBLIC.—A LUCKY PRISONER.

There was a remarkable conflict of evidence in a case heard at Benbow Street, in which Charles Shover, of Petrol Street, Turnham Green, was charged with being drunk while in charge of a taxi-cab.

Mr. Bigge Gunn prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioner of Police. Mr. Mouthpiece defended.

Constable Bogey said he observed the prisoner driving his cab in an erratic manner in Hotspur Street, and made him a signal to stop. Instead of obeying, he continued his wild career and endeavoured to run into several persons who were idiotic enough to try to cross the road. However, he was at length prevailed upon to bring his machine to a standstill, and the constable investigated matters. In his opinion, the man had "copped the brewer."

Magistrate: What does that mean in English?

The constable explained that it meant intoxicated. He went on to relate how he took the man to the station and charged him, and the inspector on duty confirmed the estimate of his subordinate that the prisoner was decidedly hi-tiddley-hi-ti, which, he hastened to explain for the benefit of his worship, signified that the man had been bending his elbow too much and too often.

Magistrate Have you good grounds for coming to this conclusion?

Inspector: Certainly, sir. In the first place there was his breath, which was impregnated with the odour of alcohol. We had to open the windows. And we applied the usual tests.

Magistrate: The usual tests? What are they?

Inspector: We invited him to say "truly rural," implored him to mention the "British Constitution," and asked for a brief reference to "sarsaparilla." He utterly failed to make himself understood in either language. We requested him to walk tip-toe along a straight line, and desired him to stoop down and touch his toes with his fingers without bending his knees.

Dr. Pills, for the police, stated that the prisoner was undeniably intoxicated.

Dr. Lotion, for the defence, stated that the prisoner was undeniably sober.

The Magistrate observed it was possible that one or other of the medical gentlemen was mistaken in his diagnosis. Their opinions appeared to differ, which was a very rare thing.

Mr. Mouthpiece said the whole thing was impossible. His client was a staunch teetotaler, and had been all his life.

Prisoner, being sworn, said he had not taken any intoxicants that day or any other day. He had never tasted such things. All he had to drink was one cup of tea. He stopped his cab as soon as he observed the policeman's signal, and if he drove sideways it was to avoid two old ladies and three old gentlemen who were all going in different directions.

Magistrate: But how was it you could not repeat the simple words the inspector asked you to say?

Prisoner: I could not say them then and I could not say them now. I have an impediment in my speech.

Magistrate: What about the other tests?

Prisoner: When they wanted me to tip-toe along a chalk line, I said my name wasn't Blondin. It's a thing I can't do. I am clever in some things, but I know my limits. And as for stooping down and touching my toes with my fingers without bending my knees, I have rheumatism in my back, and to attempt the trick would have pitched me on my head.

Mr. Mouthpiece: I should like to urge that all these so-called tests of drunkenness are unfair and unreliable.

Several witnesses were called who swore that Shover was perfectly sober, and that he was a lifelong teetotaler.

The Magistrate said it appeared that the accused had never had a drink in his life, but perhaps after this warning he would be more careful. The police were quite justified in the steps they took, but there was some doubt about the case, and prisoner must have the benefit of it. He would be discharged.

Could he have his costs? Certainly not.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

December 22nd.—THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.
Be just and fear not.—*Shakespeare.*

December 22nd.—JOHN MASKELYNE.
The people wish to be deceived; let them be deceived.—*Cardinal Caraffa.*

MORE DONT'S FOR DONORS,

OR PRESENTS NOT TO GIVE AT CHRISTMAS.

Don't give *Mr. Churchill* a dog-whip; he got one at Bristol.

* * *

Don't send *Mr. G. B. Shaw* a baron of beef; he might eat it by mistake.

* * *

Don't attempt to give *Mr. G. K. Chesterton* anything, he will only reply, "If there is one thing I would rather have than a Christmas Present, it is—a Christmas Past"; and, what's more, he will expect you to laugh at this.

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By TITAN, AND JONATHAN NICHOLSON, LL.D.

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Chapter II.—The Will to Regulate Action—Material and Immaterial Waste—Unnatural Appetite—Dangerous Foods—Exciting Liquids—Tea and Coffee Injurious—Power of Self-Denial—Food and Mind—The Will and Offsprings—Sensations Misleading—Matter Controlled by Mind—Weak Wills and Failures—Nervous Incompetence—Weariness and Debility—Directing the Sex Nature—Mistakes and their Consequences—Holding Your Own—Convincing Others.

Chapter III.—Checking Evil Habits—Handling the Reins—Resisting Thoughts—Mind Superior to Environment—All Forces of Body Controllable—The Will and Disease—Mental Topics—The Mind a Telegraph—Depression and Physical Weakness—How to Keep Cheerful—Misery through Ignorance—Pure Love Exalts—Magnificent Men and Women.

Chapter IV.—Unchastity the Destroyer—Mean and Degraded Natures—Mind and Action—The Involuntary Muscles—Physical Results of Excitement—Paralysing the Mind—Injurious effects of Alcohol, Nicotine, Mercury, Morphine, etc.—Overeating Harmful—How to Maintain Superb Health—Weak Brain and Delusions—Influence of Outward Objects—Mind from Within—Intelligent Exercise of Faculties Essential—Poor Material and Body Building—What We Make Ourselves—Breakdown and Its Causes—The Spiritual and the Natural—Effect of Repeated Impressions—Self Correction Needed—The Germs that Destroy—Pluck Out the Weeds—The Blood and the Mind—Causes of Madness—Imagination, Inspiration and Evil Spirits—Unprofitable Ideals.

Chapter V.—How to Develop Competence and Authoritativeness—Slaves to the Will—Healthy Thinking—Cowardice, Confusion and Sensitiveness Overcome.

Chapter VI.—Mere Desire Useless—Developing a Positive Force—Strong Decision a Necessity—Lassitude, Loss of Control—Suggestions and Control.

Chapter VII.—Doctrine of Free Will—Architects for Good or Evil—Involuntary Crime—Natural Instinct—Inherited Tendencies—Subjection of Disease—Hysteria, Hypochondriasis and Other Diseases—Imitating others.

Chapter VIII.—An Iron Tenacity—Stupid Opposition—Men of Responsibility—Wonderful Old Men—Mind Influence Unfathomable—Obstacles Swept Away—Power Proportionate to Force.

Chapter IX.—How to be Successful—Subjective Mentation—Dangers of Constipation—A Cure Described—Faulty Digestive Organs.

Chapter X.—Therapeutic Property of Magnetism—Influence of Personal Magnetism—Marriages and Magnetic Partners—Magnetism Evilly Exercised—The Body and Magnetic Currents—Conditions Necessary for Restoring and Maintaining Happiness and Health.

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IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXVIII.—MR. BART KENNEDY.

I met Bart Kennedy the other day. The other day. In a Surrey lane. Bart Kennedy. There was not a turning near by. Not a gate. Not a tree to climb. There was no escape. I had to meet him. Bart Kennedy. In a Surrey lane.

He is a big man. In an Inverness. And a slouch hat. A sombrero. A big man. He also looks fierce, and keeps bull dogs. Bull dogs! *Bull dogs!!*

There was no escape. So I spoke to him. To Bart.

"You delivered an oration
At the mighty demonstration
Of Liberal indignation
Held in Trafalgar Square;
Since then I have been fretting,
And constantly regretting,
That, the date of it forgetting,
I was not also there."

"It was a tremendous meeting," returned Bart, throwing back his cape. "It was a fierce meeting. Determination was there. In each face. Determination."

"I was interested in your speech," I remarked. "I particularly noticed your statement to the effect that the Lords are going to get it. The Lords are. To get it."

"Certainly," declared Bart, with strong emphasis. "They are going to get it. The Lords are. Who are the Lords who are going to get it?"

"I am not good at riddles," I returned. "Ask me another."

Bart Kennedy shook his clenched fist in the air, and for the moment I was apprehensive that I also might be going to get it.

"The Lords who are going to get it," he shouted, "are parasites. And they are going to get it!"

"So you remarked just now," I ventured to say. "But would you be kind enough to tell me what it is they are going to get?"

"The Lords are parasites, and they are going to get it," roared Bart, ignoring my humble query. "This fight against the Lords is a fight for the slaves. For the slaves. Against the Lords. Against the parasites. Against the sweaters. For the slaves."

"Yes, yes; I understand all that perfectly well," I said, a little impatiently; "but I am anxious to know what they are going to get."

But Bart Kennedy, warming to his work, and probably oblivious to my presence, hung his sombrero on a gooseberry bush and continued the attack.

"In this fight," he cried, "blows will be struck. Blows. in this fight against the Lords. Who were going to get it. There will be struck blows. Blows."

"Who is Lord Lansdowne?" roared Bart. "Who is Arthur Balfour?"

"Slaves," I interpolated.

"Slaves," repeated the orator, with the unthinking agreement that reminds one of the Two Macs and other music-hall knockabouts. But instantly realizing what he had said, he lost no time in correcting himself. "No, no—not slaves, but——"

"Slows," I suggested, quietly.

"Slows," repeated Bart, caught again.

"And they are going to get it," I cried.

"They are going to get it," repeated Bart. "They are going to get what they have asked for. What have they asked for?" demanded the speaker, waving his hand heavenward.

"Start again," I proposed; "begin at 'What are the Lords?'"

Bart took the cue. "What are the Lords?" he cried anew, having wiped the profuse perspiration from his face. "What are the Lords who are going to get it?"

"Parachutes," I said.

"Parachutes," repeated Bart. "No—parasites, you awful ass," shaking me roughly by the shoulder. "Don't interrupt. You keep on putting me out of my stride."

"All right," I returned; "but I must be going now. Before I go you might tell me what they are going to get."

"What they have asked for," growled Bart, and strode away towards Reigate.

THE PLAINT OF THE LONELY.

By Irene Miller.

Humanity is naturally as gregarious as is a flock of sheep; unbroken solitary confinement nearly always leads to actual insanity.

In one of his short stories, Guy de Maupassant tells of a man who lived solitary, and grew to be haunted by an invisible presence that he called "It." Walking home at night, he would feel "It" following him; he would slip quickly into his rooms, hoping to prevent "It" getting in too. But ere long, as he sat before the fire, he would become aware that "It" was there, standing close up behind his back! As we know, poor Guy de Maupassant died raving mad, and it seems only too likely that he was here setting forth one of the real horrors that had tortured his poor brain.

None the less, if you happen to be that *rara avis*, a genius, a large dose of solitude should be taken as a duty. True is the graphic, if somewhat gruesome-sounding, advice that a great French artist gave to the young Russian painter, Marie Bashkirtseff: "If you want to produce the finest work of which you are capable, you must isolate yourself from the world as if you were a cholera patient." But while this may aid the production of works of the type that live for ever, it won't serve practical writers and artists who want their work to make money while they are still on earth to enjoy it. For that, one has to be in the swim; to learn what is wanted by the public, and to provide it. It is doubtless both poetical and pleasing to act as Lafcadio Hearn says he did:—"I withdrew into the Immensities and the Eternities, even as the rhinoceros withdraweth into the recesses of the jungle. And I gave myself up to meditations of the Vedas and of the Egyptian Ritual of the Dead, until the memory of magazines and of publishers faded from my mind, even as the vision of demons." Delightful as it may be to send all thoughts of one's "boss" out of one's thoughts in company with other demons, it is not to be recommended as a way of getting on in the world.

Alas! we all know that society does not always imply companionship. It is possible to be heartbreakingly lonely in a crowd. But for real, wretched, solitariness it must be difficult to beat the plight of Royalty—especially feminine Royalty. Think of the Queen of Spain, made to have a different lady-in-waiting every day of the year, lest she offend Court etiquette by growing to prefer some of her ladies before the others! Our own Queen is particularly fortunate in having a true, tried friend in the person of the Hon. Charlotte Knollys, concerning whom I heard a relative say, "Charlotte sincerely loves the Queen: she would follow her to the scaffold as unhesitatingly as to a bazaar." And even that unfortunate beauty, Mary Queen of Scots, was never forsaken by a friend of her girlhood days. Mary Seaton followed her sovereign from prison to prison, and on one occasion remained behind in disguise to face the fury of the tricked jailors, while the Queen attempted to escape in the guise of the prison laundress. And back in classical times we read of the Emperor Hadrian, who, when travelling in Egypt, was warned by an Oracle that he would meet his death in that country unless he sustained a great loss. Hearing of this, the Emperor's favourite, Antinous, went out and flung himself into the Nile, dying to avert this doom.

All the same, one of the few drawbacks to being rich and important is the difficulty of feeling confidence in the disinterested sincerity of professing friends. Perhaps that is one reason why "the Lonely Rich" often appreciate so fully the blind adoration of some faithful dog. They cannot tell which of the men and women who flock so readily to banquets at the mansion would likewise share a dinner of herbs in the garret; but they know well that the look of loving faith in their dog's tender eyes would not fade, although the master had naught but stale crusts with which to feed it.

What Is Your Number?

See page iii. of Cover.

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JOHN BURNS, ENIGMA.

By an Admiring Opponent.

Mr. John Burns is at the present moment the most Right Honourable mystery that has graced a Cabinet in modern times. What is more, he is a political riddle, the solution of which becomes increasingly difficult as the crisis approaches in which every Parliamentary heart must be laid bare. The opposing Party battalions are forming up for the conflict; you can already hear their battle-cries on the air, and yet the more definite their formation, and the clearer the issues, the more perplexing is the task of finding in their ranks a place for John Burns.

Other prominent politicians who have changed or greatly modified their views have either declared themselves with dramatic suddenness, or have at least indicated by their speeches the road along which in future they intend to travel. Not so John. If he has shown signs of disagreement with his Party, the tokens have, at any rate, been of a negative nature, and he has equally failed to give positive manifestations of agreement with anybody else. It is true that he is the only member of the Cabinet—at any rate, in the Lower Chamber—who has not spoken in favour of the Budget. It is also true that when the Lords amended his Town Planning Bill, he refused to beat the Party drum; the drum-stick was placed in his hand, his colleagues awaited his performance almost with open-mouthed expectation, but his response was only such as to bring a pious reprimand from the *Daily News*. This and much more that is deplorable from the point of view of orthodox Liberalism is true, but how far does it carry him in the opposite direction?

An Ardent Imperialist.

John Burns first of all is a great Britisher and a great Imperialist. It was he who said, with almost aggressive pride in his country, "I would rather be a dead dog in England than a live lion in America," and those who heard his last election speeches in Battersea will remember that his first oratorical effects turned on his belief in his fellow-countrymen. I shall never forget how, when interviewing Mr. Burns on the question of the display of the Union Jack on Government buildings on Empire Day, the President of the Local Government Board put his hands on his questioner's shoulders and said, "The Flag is far too great and grand to be made a Party asset." And this, let it be added, was about the time that one of his colleagues sneeringly remarked in the House that "the British Empire was not held together by flag-flying."

But perhaps the most mysterious feature of Mr. Burns's career as Cabinet Minister is the apparently deliberate way in which he has made himself disliked by that section of the populace to which he was once an idol. This attitude of his to the democracy is all the more amazing when it is realized that, without doing one iota more than he has done for his erstwhile supporters, he could by smooth phrases have ingratiated himself with them more than at any time during his political life.

As Coriolanus.

He has, however, astonished his bitterest opponents in the way in which he has flouted popular favour, and he has gone so far as, apparently, to have been needlessly harsh. Yet even if this be so, even if the President of the Local Government Board has treated the proletariat with unnecessary sternness, a Coriolanus is not so common a type in these days of slavish adulation and demagogic acts that one can withhold admiration from him. By a little flattery—so very little—he stood to gain everything; by playing the Coriolanus and refusing to buy the favour of the mob "at the price of one fair word," he has won—what?

Let Battersea answer the question. Mingle with the men who were once among Mr. Burns's most ardent supporters, and you will learn that they are now his bitterest enemies. It would be impossible to mention a name at a Socialist gathering in Battersea to-day which would be received with greater execration. On the other hand, the Unionists give him their admiration, but certainly will not give him their votes. The only keen Burnsites in Battersea to-day are the "Progressives," and when it is recalled that in the recent municipal elections they only obtained two seats out of fifty-four, while the Municipal Reformers captured the other fifty-two, one is inclined to doubt whether their next Parliamentary poll is likely to be of much value.

What of the Superman?

But all this brings us no nearer the answer to our question as to how far Mr. Burns has travelled on the road to Unionism. Now, although the President of the Local Government Board himself has of late given no hint as to his opinion on the main questions of the day, Battersea Tariff Reformers relate with pride that Mrs. Burns was an attentive listener for nearly two hours at one of their recent open-air meetings on Lavender Hill; and they add, moreover, that this is not the first time she has honoured them with her presence. Of course, the Tariff Reformers may be setting too much store by such incidents as these, but when one recalls how Mrs. Burns has helped her husband in his political career, and how, at a meeting in his old County Council days, Mr. Burns once referred, half-jocularly and half-seriously, to the power of the superman—well, one also remembers that John is a great admirer of Mr. Chamberlain.

Apart from these faint indications of the trend of affairs, a glance at the forecasts of the political prophets reveals the fact that they are as much at a loss as any of their readers on the subject of their vaticination. The following positions have been solemnly allotted to him at one time or other in the columns of important London or provincial newspapers:—

Chairman of the Port of London Authority.

Head of the permanent staff at the Local Government Board.

A Peerage.

Liberal and Unionist seats galore.

The subject of these speculations has himself remarked that he would like to end his days at the Local Government Board, but those who claim to know him best say that, above all else, John Burns is a fighter with a keen love of the fray for its own sake, and that he will be found in the fighting line at the impending General Election. Yet, despite all who "claim to know," Mr. Burns remains to the public the sphinx of the present Cabinet, a sphinx whose secret can be read only by himself—and, of course, John Bull.

[Perhaps we may shortly attempt a solution of the mystery.—Editor.]

"CLEAR THE COURSE."

(The following verses are submitted to us as a fitting battle-song for the Liberals. Will somebody write one for the Conservatives?)

Clear the course, if you please, my lords!
Gentlemen, clear the course!
The bell is ringing, the time accords.
You've had as much scope as the law affords.
Please to obey the Force!

Clear the course! Let the race begin!
This is no hour for play!
The crowd already is making a din
To see Lloyd George on the favourite win.
Lords, you'll have to obey!

Clear the course! Hear the crowd cry "Shame!"
Dukelets, shut up your row!
Barons and marquises, what's your game?
Well may you squeal, for Heredity's lame—
Democracy's winner now!

Clear the course for the People Stakes!
Too long you have blocked the way!
Parvenus, blunderers, fools, and rakes;
Out of the way for you own souls' sakes!
This is Democracy's day!

Clear the course! Cut along! Make haste!
We've had enough of your jaw.
What if the weights don't suit your taste?
It's nothing to us who've no time to waste,
You're bound to obey the Law!

Clear the course! 'Tis our last demand!
Dunderheads, clear the course!
The King has his eye on you down from his stand,
The people are yelling on every hand.
Draw truncheons! Now, Forward the Force!

O. M.

ABOUT THAT GAUNTLET.

JOHN BULL: "You naughty boy! I'll teach you to throw down your gauntlet to me."

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Wedding Wreaths.

A society lady, whose daughter is shortly to be married at a fashionable church, writes to me to ask full particulars of the new and pretty Viennese fashion which permits the mother of the bride to wear a crown of roses with silver leaves. They are very simple ornaments, being half-wreaths, worn like a tiara, of the silvered leaves and twigs now so easily procurable at most of the larger and more up-to-date London shops or stores. Into these silver wreaths should be inserted a few very small silk roses of the "blush" variety: that is, white tinged with pink, or else the very palest of pale pink. But on no account should the roses be white, as the effect is then curiously and painfully like the little tin tributes that cover the graves in French cemeteries! Any good milliner would arrange such an ornament lightly and deftly, and the cost would not be great. At the Viennese wedding I spoke of the wreath was worn with a tulle veil in the church, but this was slipped off afterwards for the reception. It all depends on my correspondent's style of beauty, of course, but I would suggest that a gown of soft grey satin and a pale grey tulle veil would be singularly effective, or all heliotrope of the very palest shade, in which case the roses should be silver, not pink. To imagine the general effect of this coronal and veil one has only to think of the lovely Coronation portrait of Queen Alexandra, in which a tulle veil falls from the small mounted crown. May my sincere felicitations accompany this advice? The bridesmaids' head-dresses sound most picturesque, like the portraits of Venetian princesses. It should be a lovely wedding.

Dear Dora.

It was very nice of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones to "enthuse" over the vast development of big and intellectual women at the Women Journalists' banquet recently, and no doubt it was regarded as a tribute to the vast army of go-ahead-at-any-price femininity of to-day to say that the "Dora" in "David Copperfield" type was as dead as a door-nail, killed by her brainy successors. For my part, I don't regard it as a compliment, but then I don't regard it as true, and I have my strong suspicions that Mr. Jones secretly shares both these sentiments in his heart of hearts. What a bore that "intellectual companion" of man would be, if you convert the latter word to its real meaning, which would be simply—rival! And how dull the world would become if she predominated! As it is, most men suffer from the appalling tendency to take things and themselves—especially themselves—much too seriously, and are only saved from going mad or idiotic on the subject by the eternal, health-giving, enthusiastic, philosophic folly of women. It is just the streak of "Dora" in an otherwise sensible person that makes her perfectly irresistible, as well as keeping the world young. The whole-hog "Dora" might get on some people's nerves nowadays, though to me the shaken ringlets, and the blue-ribboned hats, and the kissing nonsense are much more charming than the haggard hysteria in hand-embroidered homespun that we call advanced Woman with a capital "W." But a bit of her is necessary in my sex to make things "hum" at all. So necessary, indeed, that I venture to contend that not only is "Dora" not dead at all, but that she can never, never die! Thank goodness.

Fashion and the Graces.

During the last few weeks we have witnessed such a genuine revival of the artistically theatrical and pageantry spirit amongst people of social note and leisure, that it does look at last as though the fashion-tide had turned against that dreary being, the moneyed ignoramus, and some sort of era of the fine arts had set in. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton's beautiful "St. Ursula" play at the Court Theatre, and the stately Picture Tableaux at Covent Garden, all acted and worked up entirely by leaders of London society and their friends, ring a note of hope, at all events. At least, wild animals who can only play Bridge and motor madly, and who have hitherto boasted of their stupidity, will now get the cold shoulder in some quarters. And this æsthetic worship of the Graces will in time permeate to lesser ranks of the social order till it comes into sharp contact with the unmoneyed middle classes, who have quietly and steadfastly guarded the sacred flame through all these years of vulgarity and blatant folly. It may then get some surprises. But the unfashionable middle-class beauty-worshipper may now at last bring forth her accomplishments, and those of us who have any knowledge of *belles lettres* may henceforth display it, instead of classing it with our vices and poor relations. And the Council school infant, who now, as a matter of course, sings and dances to delicate and minor Elizabethan songs, and gets through a minuet to Arne's frail magic of sound, or the East-Ender who plays at skipping to Danish folk-songs, and sings Jacobean lyrics to an air from some old Rouen gradual, will now have something in common to talk about when they come into social contact with the great. Hitherto the link has been distinctly wanting.

What is Your Number?
See Page iii. of Cover.

No Man is Too Old,

Nor is any man too young to play billiards. There is no game so fascinating, and probably no game so popular, seeing that it enables one to pass the evenings in the pleasantest manner. Hitherto the drawback has been the necessity of adjourning to the club or the hotel in order to play. Now the necessity no longer exists. Billiards may be played at home, as any ordinary room will accommodate a miniature table, and, if a combined billiard and dining-table is obtained, you can play with a maximum of convenience. Messrs. E. J. Riley, Ltd., Willow Mount Works, Accrington, make these billiard tables in all sizes, and the cost (payable by instalments if desired) is inconsiderable. Send a postcard for full particulars.

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Every one of our clients is essentially an opportunist. He has seen an advantage, taken it, and benefited by it. What we do for one client we can do for another. That was the beginning and making of a client. From the very first our efforts are directed to keeping a client. That is our business: the secret of our success. Below we give particulars of cheques paid to a few new clients—

Cheques.	W.R.P.	Amounts.
4,709	.. .. ..	8 0 0
6,124	.. .. ..	6 18 4
6,897	.. .. ..	81 15 5
		£96 13 9

Cheques	E.B.	Amounts.
3,018	.. .. ..	12 0 0
3,952	.. .. ..	40 10 0
6,869	.. .. ..	50 0 0
10,971	.. .. ..	16 10 0
13,967	.. .. ..	7 0 0
14,018	.. .. ..	61 0 0
		£187 0 0

Cheques.	W.J.W.	Amounts.
1,361	.. .. ..	19 0 0
3,599	.. .. ..	18 0 0
7,710	.. .. ..	39 9 6
9,029	.. .. ..	50 0 0
9,748	.. .. ..	75 10 0
11,704	.. .. ..	65 7 6
12,499	.. .. ..	7 10 0
12,903	.. .. ..	100 0 0
13,185	.. .. ..	122 15 11
		£497 12 11

Cheques.	H.F.	Amounts.
2,119	.. .. ..	8 0 0
2,280	.. .. ..	6 0 0
2,420	.. .. ..	7 0 0
4,253	.. .. ..	6 0 0
4,970	.. .. ..	8 0 0
2,844	.. .. ..	16 0 0
6,240	.. .. ..	23 0 0
31,470	.. .. ..	19 7 6
31,473	.. .. ..	65 0 0
		£158 7 6

Cheques.	N.R.	Amounts.
1,326	.. .. ..	6 18 8
2,587	.. .. ..	24 0 0
3,642	.. .. ..	19 16 6
7,108	.. .. ..	29 17 6
		£80 12 8

Cheques.	W.R.P.	Amounts.
9,560	.. .. ..	50 0 0
9,855	.. .. ..	25 13 0
10,049	.. .. ..	155 5 0
12,066	.. .. ..	7 15 0
		£238 13 0

Cheques.	W.T.P.	Amounts.
4,935	.. .. ..	12 0 0
5,949	.. .. ..	21 5 4
5,824	.. .. ..	11 15 0
6,940	.. .. ..	21 17 6
7,591	.. .. ..	10 0 0
7,578	.. .. ..	11 12 6
14,280	.. .. ..	75 0 0
7,119	.. .. ..	60 2 6
		£223 12 10

Cheques.	E.D.	Amounts.
1,372	.. .. ..	8 16 6
3,030	.. .. ..	29 10 9
6,103	.. .. ..	30 0 0
6,105	.. .. ..	19 19 0
6,255	.. .. ..	10 10 0
6,861	.. .. ..	52 0 0
7,239	.. .. ..	15 13 1
13,870	.. .. ..	21 0 0
14,370	.. .. ..	15 5 5
		£202 14 9

These clients have profited. But thousands of other clients have profited—to the amount of £302,610. Why not you? Every "John Bull" reader should come to us for results. We make frequent and substantial profits for clients. Fill in the Coupon and get particulars of the facts of our business.

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Please forward me particulars of how, starting with a few pounds, clients have more frequent profits, and a list of between 14,000 and 15,000 cheques, numbers, to whom paid, amounts, &c.

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"SENSIBILISM."

By Stephen Torre.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

It is never too late, it is never out of season, surely, to emphasise a good movement; therefore, I need make no apology for adding my appreciation to the great body of sympathisers who acclaimed themselves in accord with the aims of the John Bull League on the night of its inauguration, and after its President's extraordinarily masterful exposition upon the need of such a movement. Let me say at once that I am an absolute stranger to Mr. Horatio Bottomley; I hold no brief for him in defence of past happenings, nor ticket myself his blind comrade in the future. My object in writing is to, in a small way, answer those who carp at the John Bull League, and, if the President will allow me, coin a word by which the League's Political, Religious, and Social aims may become known. Unfortunately, I was unable to be at the great meeting; fortunately, one or two of our unbiassed newspapers gave reports which one was able to read; but it is on reading the verbatim report sent out by the League itself that I am a-fired with an enthusiasm which demands a public acceptance of the responsibilities membership of the League entails. I have heard it said that, shorn of all the poetic phrascology of the League's President's unsurpassable oratory, rank Socialism is disclosed as the bedrock upon which future success is to be founded. If one were to lower oneself to the level of present-day professional Parliamentarians of great influence, one would use emphatic, childishly-vulgar language with which to deny that charge. But, heaven forbid that an enthusiastic member of the John Bull League should publicly, either by spoken or written word, find himself classed with those whose upbringing and social standing have still left them non-masters of their tempers and without "the sense of decency" developed in the slightest degree. No; Socialism, Conservatism, Radicalism, as representing politics, and Churchism, Chapelism, and "Spoofism," as representing religious bodies, have, as far as the John Bull League is concerned, to give way to beliefs, Political, Religious and Social, best described, to my mind, by the word "Sensibilism." That which is unsensible in party politics—and those who follow the utterances of Members of Parliament of all sides, both in and outside "the House," will assuredly be awake to the fact that little "sense" is talked by either party—will be attacked; and that which is sensible, no matter whether proposed by a private member, on the Government side or in Opposition, will be supported. In religious spheres those men who, working according to their lights, are doing real good to humanity, will feel the League's members wish them well, while those holding high positions and using those positions to amass wealth and public admiration by preaching tenets in every way at variance with the happiness of mankind, can be certain of attack ruthless in its completeness.

And the League, I take it, will turn its attention to those of our laws which, fostered and fathered by our religious fanatics in the fear that a reformation of those laws would mean a loss of power to priests and parsons, are daily binding in irons men and women who, free, would be assets of immense value in the social life of our country. More especially does this remark apply to the reform of our Divorce Laws, which in their present priest-prepared form promote more immorality and crime than all the laws upon our statutes prevent. It is, then, the dawn of a new era in government of the people by the people, and the enacting of laws drawn up by commonsense men of the world that members of the John Bull League are witnessing. Not, perhaps, at the next election, but at the following one, the John Bull League, with its party call of "Sensibilism," will have so captured the men—aye, and the women—with votes, that the country will rid itself of a Parliament composed of "cranks and faddists, temperance tub-thumpers and gospel missioners, professional politicians and scheming lawyers," and will return to power a body of men from whom our ever-beloved, tactful chamipion of "Sensibilism"—King Edward the Seventh—will be able to elect a business Cabinet whose management of affairs, home and Imperial, will once more place our own country in its proud position of Queen of all Nations, undisturbed either by "the trail of the curling winds," or the rumble of the distant thunder of other nations fighting for supremacy.

XMAS PARTY

In thousands of homes it's the only occasion when the whole family can meet together at one table. You may be trusted to provide the best provisions money can buy, and the cooking will be quite reliable, but a shabby badly worn set of Table Cutlery is a serious let down, and quite spoils the effect of the table arrangements. Nothing is more noticed than the Cutlery, and the attractions of a well provided table are many times multiplied by a well matched set of Genuine Sheffield Knives, Forks, and Spoons. It is a pity to have good well cooked food spoiled at the table through using blunt seedy-looking cutlery. There is no need to make a difficulty of the price, because we will supply our WORLD-CONQUERING ....

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51 pieces for 25/-

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I CAN RID YOU OF YOURS, TOO.

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If you could only see the letters written to me by persons of both sexes and all ages, you would know that you need not be fat or ungainly, or too heavy and unhealthy.

In the later letters written by these persons they continue to speak in terms of the highest praise of my treatment for superfluous flesh and abnormal weight. The cure is permanent. My patients confirm what I know my treatment will do for all who are too stout.

These photos. show how my "Favourite Formula" gets rid of superfluous fat from all parts of the body.

Because I know so well that my cure for fatness never fails to reduce excessive size and weight, I am giving away 10,000 2s. 6d. Packages of my "Favourite Formula" to make it known far and wide among people who are fat, or who are growing fat.

The Package I will send is exactly the same as sold by Chemists and Stores everywhere at 2s. 6d. To obtain one of these Packages, all you have to do is to fill up the Coupon at the end of this article. This will entitle you to receive one of these 2s. 6d. Packages free of charge.

THE WONDERFUL STORY OF MY OWN CURE.

I feel I should here like to put in a few words of personal introduction ;—

I myself am the sole survivor of a family most of whose members died prematurely after much mental and physical suffering arising from Corpulence. While studying Medicine for my Degree, I saw the signs of the family complaint in myself. I naturally sought to avert what I for some time feared as being my hereditary fate.

It was when I had almost

GIVEN UP HOPE

that I discovered a cure for my condition, which all the time grew worse, in spite of my hopeful trials of all advertised and unadvertised remedies for stoutness I at last gave up expecting a cure from other people. I experimented with my own thought-out remedies, and, happily, at last my perseverance—or, rather, my desperation—succeeded.

With what joy I noted my daily reduction of weight. I remember my keen delight to this day. With the reduction of my weight my breathing became easy. I grew to forget that my heart beats 72 times a minute. My health and spirits improved, and my appearance became so altered that

FRIENDS WONDERED AND QUESTIONED.

Of course, I was so pleased that I told them all about it. I did not then know—or even expect—that the treatment which cured me would also cure my friends and others. But it did—and it was really because my "patient" friends advised me to do so that I decided to study and practise the profession of an Obesity Specialist.

PEOPLE I HAVE CURED.

Now, after several years of successful experience as a Fatness Specialist, I can truly say that my "Favourite Formula" is the surest and safest cure for too much fat in the system. In nine cases out of ten it never fails to reduce Fat in all such cases as the following :—

Double Chin and Flabby Cheeks.	**Shortness of Breath.**
Ungainly Hips.	**Husky, Weak Voice.**
Protruding Abdomen.	**Aged Appearance.**
Shapeless Limbs.	**Physical Incapacity.**
Abnormal Weight.	**Lack of Energy and Strength.**
Faults of Figure.	**Chronic Lassitude.**

My experience as a Specialist against Obesity with several thousands of men and women shows that a large majority of sufferers owe their trouble to one cause which my "Favourite Formula" quickly and quite safely corrects. This cause is connected with the Digestive and Eliminative processes. Too much of the Food becomes Fat instead of muscle and energy. Very fat people have flabby, soft, weak muscles, and very little energy. **I have never known my "Favourite Formula" to fail in such cases.**

Do not for one moment longer continue to think because you are fat, and have perhaps tried "this, that, and the other thing" without being cured, that you must *stay* fat.

YOU NEED NOT DESPAIR.

And I specially invite those who have vainly tried other remedies, such as injurious acid medicines, sweating baths, and exercises, to try the *safe* and *certain* cure I myself discovered—and *try it, too, at my expense.*

If you neglect this opportunity you may go on getting Fatter and Fatter.

If, on the other hand, you try my remedy, you will quickly discover that you can get rid of your Fat at the rate of almost 1lb. a day.

IT WILL COST YOU NOTHING TO TRY.

I can only send one 2s. 6d. Package of my "Favourite Formula" to each person.

In the Package (please send two penny stamps for postage and packing) I will enclose photos of Ladies and Gentlemen showing what my cure has done for them. I will also send letters from many of these Ladies and Gentlemen.

Apply to-day, and you can begin your test of my "Favourite Formula" for Fatness by return of post—*and at my expense.*

I offer this free 2s. 6d. Package to all who have not yet tried my Remedy. After trial—if entirely satisfied—further supplies of my "Favourite Formula" can be purchased from Chemists and Stores everywhere.

This Coupon Entitles the Sender to a 2s. 6d. Package of my "Favourite Formula." A letter also may be sent, but this coupon must be used.

I HAVE never tried your "Favourite Formula" and wish to do so and I accept your offer to send me one full-sized package. I enclose 2d. to cover postage and packing.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

J.B. .....

To J. NELSON LLOYD, 57, Hanover House, 37, New Bond Street, London, W.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Rising Markets—Home Rails and other Home Securities Advance—South African and West African Mines Strong—Present Opportunities for Bargains in Anticipation of the 1910 Upward Movement.

Apart from the political position at home, the outlook in the stock markets has distinctly brightened, and we have actually a reduction in the Bank rate in December, a phenomenon that has never occurred before—the last month of the year being generally one of stringency. But as a matter of fact the Bank was confronted with the alternative of securing more gold by raising its purchase price or of reducing the official minimum, and for the sake of the trading community, it chose the latter. It is true that a reduction was made only to 4½ per cent., but the very fact that it was made in December is calculated to increase confidence, and, upon the whole, a very cheerful tone prevails, which has already been instrumental in raising values, in several departments, and more particularly in the stocks to which I have all along drawn attention. Japanese, Brazilians and Russians are up amongst Foreign Government stocks, and while Consols are below the best, Colonial Government and Corporation Stocks, which I also pointed out as promising to my readers, have been on the up-grade, and above all Home Securities, especially Home Rails, were included in the buying movement, and a sharp improvement has been established in Kaffir and West African shares, and also in Rhodesians, although in the latter movements have been somewhat irregular. Amongst Foreign Rails, Mexicans have been in favour, and Argentines have recovered on reassuring news concerning the reported damage by frost to the wheat crop, while *Canadian Pacifics* have scored a fresh advance. Thus most of my favourites are doing well and will have put money into the pockets of those readers of John Bull who have followed my advice. We can hardly expect a boom in the last fortnight of the year, but we may have advancing prices, and whatever the issue of the General Election, the fact that values in many departments are still very low, that money is bound to get cheaper in the new year, and that a substantial improvement in trade is in progress in this country as elsewhere, promises an important upward movement in the course of the early part of 1910. I repeat, therefore, that this is still a good time for buying bargains, but those will be best off who at once pay for their purchases instead of running speculative accounts. It is precisely the great reduction in speculative commitments for the rise disclosed in the last settlement, and the substitution of a "Bear" account in various directions, which renders prospects of the markets so attractive, despite the coming turmoil in home politics.

The Yankee Market in a Waiting Attitude—Copper Combinations—Canadian Pacifics Advance.

It must be admitted that our Yankee cousins, or rather the Wall Street financiers amongst them, succeeded in supporting remarkably well their stocks at what must be called a very high level, considering they received little assistance from the investing public on this side of the Atlantic. For once the big men combined in this heavy task, as it was a matter of sheer necessity, they holding the bulk of the stock. Had the public been saddled with the railroad, steel and copper securities we should have had a severe break long ago. But Mr. Pierpont Morgan, who was practically in command, is a host in himself, and if the usual end-of-the-year money squeeze in Wall Street is got over without any serious flurry, the worst of the task will have been accomplished, as undoubtedly an improvement in trade is in progress in the States. There are, of course, more lions in the path, such as the possibility of severe labour troubles, President Taft's expected second message against the Trusts and the suit against the Standard Oil Trust. But already rumours are current that the latter will be got over by some system of purchase outright. The Copper scheme, too, is being pushed on and apparently there will be a series of amalgamations, the Utah-Boston amalgamation now also taking in the *Nevada Consolidated*. The various interests concerned are so powerful that they bring about an advance by main force, but even if it is accomplished, it will be hard work to keep it going, and the big producers who keep outside the agreement will probably fare best. It is a relief to turn from these ominous complications to *Canadian Pacifics*, which have now advanced to 185¾, which price is ex the rights to the stock assessed at $9¾. The gross traffic up to December shows the enormous increase of $8,154,000, and if, as is being foreshadowed, the next dividend is raised by an additional bonus from Land profits to 8 per cent. per annum, we shall doubtless have a fresh rise.

Progress of the Home Railway Revival—Great Central Preferences the Pick of the Bunch.

I have of late drawn special attention to the undue depreciation which has occurred in Home Rails, and which I have illustrated by means of various tables. These facts have appealed immediately to a large number of my readers, who have taken advantage of the reactions to lay in stock. They have every reason to be satisfied with their investment, as there has already been a substantial improvement in values, which, however, has not yet by any means reached its zenith. I have lately been asked to give chapter and verse for my advocacy of Home Railway stocks, and I cannot do better than commence with the group of Great Central Preferences, which, indeed, may be considered the pick of the bunch. Ever since the line came to London it has been making excellent progress, thanks to its enterprising management, which is always on the alert for new methods to attract the travelling public. Moreover, the line does a large carrying trade, especially in coal, and therefore the recent decision of the Railway Commissioners, permitting the coal-carrying companies to increase rates where justified, is of transcendent importance of it, and will find its expression presently in a continued expansion of dividends. The fact is now being recognised both by the public and professional operators, and there has recently occurred a moderate upward movement in Great Central Preference stocks, the extent of which will be gathered from the following little table:—

Great Central.	Highest 1907.	Lowest 1908.	Present Price.
Five per Cent. 1879 Preference	127½	97	108
" " 1881 "	125	84	103
" " 1889 "	98⅝	63	73
Four per Cent. 1892 "	86	48	55
Five per Cent. 1894 "	74½	37	40
Preferred Ordinary	35⅛	18⅜	21½

Allowing for the fact that some of the above issues contain practically a half-year's dividend, the recovery from the lowest points of 1908 has not so far been very considerable, and certainly, as compared with the highest prices ruling only some two years ago, there is still a very big margin for improvement. The outlook for the company is indeed most encouraging. Thanks to the working agreement with the Great Northern and Great Eastern Companies, drastic economies have been effected in working expenditure, without in any way affecting the efficiency both of the passenger and goods services. For instance, in the twelve months ended June 30, 1909, a gross traffic decrease of nearly £150,000 was actually turned into a net gain of £63,000. As regards the current half-year, the aggregate receipts for the past twenty-two weeks show a loss of £9,600 in passenger, but a gain of £38,000 in good receipts. The weekly returns have made an excellent showing of late, and it is estimated that, allowing for the further increases which may be expected for the last few weeks, and for the usual under-publication of traffic, there will probably be an expansion of about £70,000 in gross revenue for the half-year. This showing is obtained in an unfavourable year, while in 1910, after the General Election, the Trade revival may be expected to go full steam ahead. Even if no reduction has been effected in working expenses for the current half-year, and it is more than likely that the contrary is the case, it would not be unreasonable to assume that the Preference dividends will be paid down to the 1889 issue, while at the same rate of progress it should be possible even for the holders of the Preferred Ordinary stock to look for dividends in three or four years' time. Under the circumstances, one may fairly consider Great Central Preferences a most promising lock-up investment.

A Well-secured 5 Per Cent. Investment.

My readers will, no doubt, agree with me that it is not so easy to find a really well-secured 5 per cent. investment amongst the ordinary run of stocks—it is necessary to go into the by-ways to discover this *rara avis* and I have just happened on such a thing in connection with a Mexican Railway. Do not be afraid, readers of John Bull, that I might propose to entangle you in a gamble in the notoriously speculative Mexican Rails (Vera Cruz line). It is a sound railway stock of the Debenture class which will, as soon as its merits are thoroughly known amongst investors, no doubt become a favourite and rise to a higher level. Let me explain. The leasing of the Mexican Southern Railway by the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico, which is known to have been carried out under the auspices of the Mexican Government, has now become effective. The guarantee of the Interoceanic on *Mexican Southern Ordinary* takes the form of a rent charge, the following being the rising scale

of interest:—3½ per cent. for 1910, 4 per cent. for 1911, 4½ per cent. for 1912, 5 per cent. for 1913-15, 5½ per cent. for 1916-17, and 5½ per cent. thereafter. Estimating that a stock of this class should yield 5 per cent., the loss on the dividends would be, for 1910 1½ per cent., for 1911 1 per cent., and for 1912 ½ per cent., together £3. As the stock can at present be purchased at 93, it may be put thus:—Mexican Southern Ordinary constitutes at the equivalent price of 96 a good permanent and well-secured 5½ per cent. investment. In the event of liquidation the stocks would rank imediately after the Interoceanic Debenture stock, but, being a rent charge, it takes precedence even over the Prior Lien Debentures for the annual interest. The latter, by the way, has now all been paid off, and the reserve fund accumulated by the Interoceanic, in connection therewith, has become available for the general purposes of the Company. The arrangement does not take effect until January 1st, 1910, so that the dividend on Mexican Southern for the current year is still dependent upon the actual earnings, which it is estimated will permit again of a distribution of 2 per cent. in May next. The present quotation is not much below the record high level recently touched at 94, but competent market authorities place the intrinsic value of the stock at least at par, viz., 100, and there is an excellent prospect of further appreciation in the course of a few years.

PREMIUM BONDS AND LOTTERIES.

I am simply overwhelmed, and have been for some months, with enquiries about Premium Bonds, to buy which the British public are evidently being pestered to an extraordinary extent by circularising touts, chiefly hailing from Paris. Of course, all the clap-trap in these circulars about a certain road to fortune is all nonsense. I have no objection, of course, to the Bonds in themselves, the system being correctly carried out by various Foreign Governments and Municipalities, for the benefit of those speculatively inclined, who prefer to a rate of interest of from, say, four to five per cent., a very small or no interest, with the chances of drawing prizes. Personally, I should prefer the higher interest, but that is a matter of taste. In reply to the numerous enquiries, I must now, once for all, state that most of the circularising fraternity in question are doubtful, or would charge higher prices than the market quotation, or might try to unload some particularly worthless bond. I cannot possibly answer all the questions whether this or that firm with a high-sounding name, is respectable or not. The only service I can render my readers is to send them the name of a respectable firm of Foreign Bankers in London, who make a speciality of Premium Bonds, and who are prepared to advise their clients, and also to watch the drawings for them. In that case, my readers will have to send a stamped and addressed envelope. With reference to Continental Lotteries, I am also receiving numerous communications, asking me whether this or that agent or intermediary, in Hamburg, Brunswick, Budapest, etc., is to be trusted for buying Lottery tickets. Once for all, I must tell my readers that I do not know any of these persons, that most of these intermediaries are shady, and that as Lotteries are illegal in this country, they would also have great difficulty in recovering. I must, therefore, decline to reply to such enquiries in future.

KAFFIRS FIRM UPON THE NOVEMBER GOLD OUTPUT, AND EXCELLENT DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS—RHODESIANS MORE UNCERTAIN, BUT A "BEAR" SQUEEZE IN GIANTS AND GLOBES—JUNGLES ADVANCE.

Some attempts of the "Bears" to place Kaffirs under fresh pressure, were frustrated by the November gold output of the Transvaal, which was fully up to expectations, amounting to 597,765 ozs. of a value of £2,539,146, being a decrease of 4,651 ozs. and £19,566 in value as compared with October, which was a longer month. There is also an increase of 1,270 in the natives, and a much larger increase is expected in December. Profits, too, are satisfactory. Excellent dividends, too, are being announced for the current half-year, such as 20 per cent. by *East Rand Prop.*, same as last year; 2s. on *Gold Mines Investment*, making 4s. per £2 share, or double last year's distribution; *New Kleinfontein*, 12½ per cent., against 10 per cent. last year. *Apex*, 7½ per cent., against 5 per cent.; *Wolhuter*, 4s. per share, the first distribution since December, 1898; *Crown Mines*, 65 per cent. for the half-year. Here, then, there are no disappointments for holders of dividend-paying Rand Mining shares. The *Randfontein Central* reports excellent progress, ore developed, 2,100,000 tons, value 32s. 9d. per ton, five main shafts sunk to a depth of 4,048ft., in the aggregate, and equipment proceeding rapidly. These shares at 2⅜, likely to pay 30 per cent. per annum, are an excellent lock up. *Rhodesians* are also steadier but more irregular, and *Chartered* do not appear to get over 1 19-32, or *Tanganyika* over 4½. On more favourable advices *Giants* have risen to 5½. *Globe and Phœnix* to 5⅝, but in these prices the future seems fairly discounted now, although eventually higher prices may be reached. *Sinti Reefs* remain firm at about 9s. 3d. The latest news from the property is that the shaft is down 80 ft., and the reef 3 ft. 6 in. wide. Assays are following, and the general development is described as satisfactory. West Africans are buoyant and prices rising, the Continent now taking a strong hand in these. *Fanti Consols* are to be introduced on the Paris Bourse, and are up at 23s. 9d., *Fanti Mines* at 9s. 3d., *Abosso*, on an increased output, are up at 2½, *Ashanti Goldfields* at 2 1-16, *Gold Coast Amalgamated* have been pushed up to 4 3-16. *Prestea Block "A"* are firm at 31s. 3d., *Prestea Mines* at 8s.

RUBBER LOWER, BUT A FAIR BUSINESS IN PLANTATION SHARES 'WARE NEW COMPANIES.

I wrote at some length on the position of rubber last week. Fine hard Para has now fallen 4d., to 7s. 4d., and Eastern plantation is also lower, but a fair business is passing in plantation shares, and the high-class kinds are well maintained. The *Cicely* has declared another 25 per cent. dividend, making 50 per cent. so far. These shares are still attractive at 25s. per 2s. share, and I strongly advise my readers to stick to the well-established dividend-paying shares like *Linggi* at 23s. 6d. x.d., *Sumatra Para* at 6s., *Highlands and Lowland* at 3⅛, *Vallambrosa* at 23s., etc., rather than apply promiscously for the new prospectuses unless they have positive information of their value. At last there is some more information concerning the *Henriques Estates* in the shape of a report from the manager as follows:—"Total area of plantation cleared 480 acres, containing about 100,000 rubber trees. All machinery should be on the estate in January, when collection of rubber on commercial scale will start. As soon as arrangements are completed, I am confident we shall be able to sell at least one million feet of mahogany and other timber per month, at the net profit of £4 10s. per 1,000 feet. First consignment of rubber experimentally collected has been sold at 7s. 3d. per lb." With reference to the prospectus of Molesworth Bros. Rubber Estates Limited, which was before the public last week, I learn that there are favourable points about this Company which have not been brought out in the prospectus, and which would place quite a different complexion upon the enterprise, the surroundings of which are, moreover, highly respectable. I have reason for stating that a good deal more will be heard of this estate, which extends to 2,000 acres in an excellent situation in Ceylon.

NEW ISSUES.

THE BUJONG RUBBER ESTATE, LTD.—This company proposes, with a capital of £40,000 in £1 shares, to acquire an estate in the Federated Malay States, consisting of 1,000 acres, of which 356 have been planted and 129 are being opened. This proposition, however, has one of the worst faults of new companies, viz., that the trees are quite young, from ¾ to 2 years old, and only 49 acres are planted 3 years, 23 acres 2¾ years. Before 1913 no fairly substantial yield can be expected, and who knows what price rubber may then fetch? It is difficult to see, too, how the whole 1,000 acres can be brought into bearing with the present capital. This company should be passed by.

RIO DE JANEIRO FIVE PER CENT. BENEDICTINE ORDER GOLD LOAN OF 1909.—The procedure in connection with this issue is a curious one. The *Investment Registry, Ltd.*, offered for sale £300,000 of these 5 per cent. bonds at 93, and a London Bank was authorised to receive applications to purchase at the price of £93 per cent. The property of the Benedictine Order, upon which the bonds are secured, has been valued at over £600,000. The conditions and cash consideration paid by the *Investment Registry* for the bonds are not disclosed. A statement is made as to the loan conditions that the same is secured in a manner "equal to that required by law for British trustee mortgages." Obviously, however, this is not a trustee security. I may mention that the *Investment Registry* has for some time been sending out statements made by the Arch Abbot of the Benedictine Order in Brazil giving particulars of the issue, and various readers of JOHN BULL, amongst them several clergymen, so favoured expressed their surprise to me. If I had been in time to reply, I should have advised my readers not to subscribe to this issue. They can do far better elsewhere.

COTTON CLEANERS' ASSOCIATION.—My brief reference to the projected Cotton Cleaners' Association, which is said to be a *rechauffé* of the Youla patents, has brought me a number

of communications some of which maintain that in the former case the promoters' finance was not at fault, while others assert with equal emphasis that the dismal failure of some years ago was not due to any defects connected with the process. I really cannot enter into details, and merely express the hope that next time both finance and process will prove efficient.

The Premier Re-forming Company, Limited.

With a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares, this Company has been formed to acquire the British patents, provisional protection for an improvement, and the secrets in connection with the process of manufacturing in the United Kingdom, rubber articles of every description from waste rubber, indistinguishable from ordinary rubber articles. Reports are issued with the prospectus from various experts, Mr. H. Bush, Mr. Herbert Wright, and Dr. Schidrowitz, according to which articles produced have well responded to the tests, and have been found perfectly satisfactorily from a commercial point of view. As the waste material is obtainable at very low price, large profits are anticipated, and the estimate is put forward that an output of 10 tons per week would produce a profit available for dividend, of over £50,000 per annum. Obviously the present high price of rubber will prove of great advantage to the Company. As regards railway companies' old buffers, it is stated that as these obtain only 3½d. per lb. for the same, there should not be much difficulty in making contracts with the companies to re-form them at 2s. per lb., they supplying the rubber free. As regards the waste rubber available, it would appear that the quantity is very large.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

Information will be readily supplied to readers of John Bull *on the following conditions:—*

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, *3, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter. Communications received after Saturday cannot be dealt with in the next issue of the paper.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

Premium Bonds.—W. E. B.—If you want to follow the drawings, you can find these in the *Moniteur des Intérêts Materiels*, which is a bi-monthly paper published in Brussels, and the cost of which is 4s. 6d. for the year, the agents being Messrs. Davies and Co., of 23, Finch Lane, Cornhill, London, E.C., but I also send you the name of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of Premium Bonds, and who would, no doubt, for a trifling charge, keep you informed. G. P.—Same reply. Cressy.—(1) I am sending you the name of the foreign bankers in London. (2) You want some gentleman to join you to develop Golf Links in Wales. I cannot help you, but perhaps one of the readers of John Bull, who may see this, can. Mara.—No, I do not like the connection with this Paris firm. X. R. W. (Mile End Road), Miss M. W., A. C. E., A. P. (Southampton).—The address you ask for has been sent in your respective envelopes. Tertulpa.—(1) I advise you not to have any dealings with this concern. (2) Ditto. (3) What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. Scotia, A. B. C. (Exmouth), Constant Reader (Thornton Heath).—All doubtful concerns. If you were to win any prizes through them it is doubtful if you would get them, and you would, of course, have no remedy at law.

Outside Brokers.—W. T. C. (Norwich).—You will have seen the paragraph in John Bull of November 27th that we have discontinued their advertisement, owing to the receipt of complaints from readers as to difficulty in obtaining payment of sums due to them. J. G. B.—Same reply. Airship.—I strongly advise you not to have anything to do with these outside brokers, 1 to 4, but deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. H. G. L.—Respectable, but would doubtless get you to buy their own pet stocks, instead of selecting the best in the market. J. T. (Luton).—See reply to W. T. C. (Norwich). Hessle.—(1 and 2) Doubtful. (3) Do not know these people. (4) I strongly advise you to deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. Robin Hood (Nottingham), Insular, C. F. (Sheffield), H. W. J. L.—All outside concerns of a very doubtful type. Have nothing to do with them. J. H. (West Hartlepool), H. G. F. (Deal).—See previous reply. What you require has been forwarded in your envelopes. J. H. (West Hartlepool).—They are outside dealers, and I never recommend, nor do I guarantee the safety of such. Novocastrian.—(1) See reply to J. H.. (2) I do not know the Manchester stockbrokers. You will do well to deal with a member of the London Stock Exchange. Mrs. W. (Colwyn Bay).—I do not see how I can help you. There is no market for these shares, which are apparently valueless. J. L. K. (Leeds), H. V. L. (Arbroath), A. S. N., R. G. G., A. W. B. (Watford), Mrs. B. (Bristol), H. S. (Bradford), B. B. B., Weaver.—All outside concerns, of more or less doubtful repute. Have nothing to do with such people. Scotchman (Glasgow).—It certainly does not look encouraging, and I do not see how I can help you. Onions, Stenton.—I am responsible only for my own opinions, and not for those of other people. O. D. H., H. D. (Hants), Mrs. B. (Stockport)., Kimberley, T. J. P. (Glos.).—All very shady concerns, who are bound to have you in the long run if you entrust any money to them. J. H. (Edinburgh).—You are entirely in their hands, and I do not see how I can help you.

Seventeen Stocks.—Finance.—Foreign bonds (1 to 5). All good holdings in their respective classes, but not gilt-edged. Corporations (6 and 7): both satisfactory holdings. Industrials (8 to 17): all right as Industrial Preference or Ordinaries, but require watching. You have yourself mentioned why I do not like Aërated Breads. Moreover, the company has had to pay the penalty of improvident financing in the past.

Dividend-paying Kaffirs.—Investidor.—Nos. 3 and 4 are preferable, and you might add Knights, Nourse Mines, and Ferreira Deep.

Strattons, Crafters.—J. R. A.—I do not like either share.

Six Industrials.—B. R. G.—All good Industrial holdings, but I do not care for No. 6.

Mutual Taxi-Cab Supply.—A. C.—I do not advise an investment.

Bahia Blanca Trams, Etc.—S. T.—(1) No. It is difficult to advise, but a purchase is hardly to be recommended, if only because of their narrow market. (2) Not particularly.

Peking and Shansi.—A. D.—It is almost like tempting Providence not to take such splendid profits as are now at your disposal.

Burma Development.—J. S. (Edinburgh).—You must please yourself, but it looks to me as if it would be a case of throwing good money after bad.

Humbers.—P. H. R.—I note your remarks, but the secretary of the company will doubtless supply you with the information in question. The Preference shares are quoted at 9s.

New Goch, Barranca.—Forrestian.—Both are good lock-up holdings. (1) 10 years. (2) Not known. I cannot tell you when dividends will be paid, but this should soon be the case with the New Goch.

Industrial Holdings.—Harvey.—After the heavy fall, it would be advisable to hold for an improvement. (2) Hold, but buy something else instead of averaging these. (3) Ditto. (4) A fair purchase of the kind. (5) Van Dea Berghs.

Leopold Schwabacher.—Exonian.—There has of late been a decline in the prosperity of this concern. As, however, the shares are not quoted, you will have some difficulty in disposing of them.

S. Whiteman and Co.—Cheers (Reading).—This concern does not appear in the usual works of reference, and I am afraid I cannot help you in the matter.

Burma Development.—M. J. B. L.—I am afraid your foreboding will prove to be correct.

£20 Gamble.—G. R. P. (Aldershot).—Kaffirs in preference, as per list mentioned to other correspondents.

Kaffirs, Etc.—Scottie.—(1) Hold for a recovery with other Kaffirs. (2) No catch. (3) All three are fair purchases, especially General Mining and Finance. Interested (Dublin).—All five shares are fair mining risks, but No. 3 is the pick of the bunch. Novice (Cheshire).—Your list is an excellent one, but how long you should hold depends entirely upon the course of the market. As regards further purchases, you might now give attention to some of the dividend-payers, such as Van Ryn, Durban Roodepoort, Crown Mines, Nourse Mines, etc. Bull's Eye.—Amongst the Kaffir shares I should prefer Simmer Deep (3) and Knights Central (5). There is nothing against 2 and 6 should come right, but the Australian coal strike threatens Broken Hill Mines (1).

Japanese.—E. B. (Ilford).—Not gilt-edged, but holdings amongst Foreign Government securities. ——.—No reason to sell Japanese, but as regards the other investments, it would be preferable to place your money in something sound, such as Western Australian 3½ per cent. Registered Stock, which is quite safe.

Gold Reefs Exploration.—Robin.—(1) If you can. (2) Your stockbroker should be able to do this. (3) There are others more promising—for instance, Van Ryn, Meyer and Charlton, or Nourse Mines.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

Loss of Policy.—Norfolk Rector (Thetford).—If when you made the claim your policy could not be found, and assuming of course that you are insured in an office of standing, the loss of the policy would not affect the willingness of the Company to meet your claim, but there would be certain formalities to go through before payment would be made.

"A Foul Shave."—Interested (Birmingham).—We understand that the State Fire Insurance Company would grant the policy you want.

City Life Assurance Company.—Arlais (Llanelly).—We should accept the offer.

Liability of Company.—S. S.—It is a very hard case, but as to its legal aspect we can offer no opinion without fuller particulars than those you send us. What is the name of the Insurance Company? We think you would be wise to consult a solicitor.

Status of Company.—F. G. (Oxford Street).—The best answer we can give to your question is to say that at the date of the last returns the funds in the Industrial branch of the company amounted to £38,124,421. Don Q. (Liverpool).—It is an old-established company and quite solvent, but it is being distanced by its competitors. Rates (Birmingham).—It is impossible for us to give you a detailed answer to your voluminous questions. All seven of the Insurance Companies you name are of high standing and none of them would serve you better than No. 1. E. P. (Barnstaple).—You do not give us particulars of the policy. We can only say upon your letter that the company to which you refer is not one of strength or high reputation. G. W. (Cardiff).—We cannot recommend you to have anything to do with the company whose prospectus you send us. E. B. T. (Birmingham).—The company does Accident and Investment Insurance business and it is under excellent management. Manchester (Darlington).—Do not worry; the company is in the front rank. Interrogatist (Norwich).—The Gresham Life Assurance Society is an excellent office. Policyholder (West Bromwich).—The company is quite safe. The reason why—a very sufficient reason—it changed its name was explained at the time. A. C. (Hyde).—Whoever told you that you would run any risk in dealing with the company you name misled you. It is in the first rank of insurance companies. Its accumulated funds considerably exceed two millions sterling, and are more than sufficient to cover the liabilities, and are ten times the amount of the annual premium income. In addition, it has a subscribed capital of one million sterling, and four-fifths of the profits are divisible amongst the assured in the participating section. We can recommend it for the endowment policy you want. A. H. (Bristol).—Quite genuine. P. T. W. (Kidderminster).—The company, as you know, is a very young one, started by the manager of another well-known company. It is a little too soon to answer the question you put to us, but we may say generally that we should prefer a company of more assured standing.

Opportunity for Investors.

One of the oldest established eminent London firms (by Royal Warrant of appointment to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and several Crowned Heads of Europe) have been granted the sole license to manufacture and sell a patented invention. A large amount of capital has been sunk by this firm in specially designed machinery to produce this invention, the first large quantities will be ready for the market shortly, and large sales are anticipated. The inventor has exceptionally good Royalties in his agreement with this firm. He having also incurred heavy expenditure now desires to sell a small share only of his interest in his Royalties. This invention is thought so well of by this firm that one of the principal partners and also their manager have each already purchased a tenth share interest in these royalties, and this should be sufficient inducement to anyone desiring a good investment. Royalties will be paid direct to the purchaser of a share every two months by the firm.—Full particulars, apply by letter, Box 349, Advt. Dept., 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The Lists will open on Wednesday the 15th December, and close on or before the following Friday for Town and Country.

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

THE PREMIER RE-FORMING COMPANY, LTD.

Rubber Manufacturers

CAPITAL £150,000

Divided into 150,000 shares of £1 each.

100,000 Shares are now offered for Public Subscription,

Payable 2s. on Application, 3s. on Allotment, 5s. one month after Allotment, and the balance as and when required, provided that no call be made at intervals of less than two months with less than three weeks' notice, or in amounts exceeding 5s.

Over 17,000 Shares have already been applied for by the Directors and their friends.

Although, as far as is compatible with the interests of the Company, an allotment will be made to all persons applying, special consideration will be given to intending customers and selling agents.

DIRECTORS.

Sir THOMAS BARCLAY, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, former President of the British Chamber of Commerce, Paris, 13, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

LAWRENCE T. BOUSTEAD, Chairman of the Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber Company, Limited, 30, Mincing Lane, E.C.

ADMIRAL Hon. Sir EDMUND R. FREMANTLE, G.C.B., C.M.G., 44, Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.

WALTER T. FREMLIN, Brewer, Maidstone, Kent.

HAROLD C. F. T. LEATHER, Director of the Labu Rubber Company (F.M.S.), Limited, Middleton Hall, Belford.

CONSULTING CHEMIST.—PHILIP SCHIDROWITZ, Ph.D., F.C.S.

BANKERS.—MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, 68, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—CHARLES STANLEY & SONS, 36, Cornhill, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITOR.—FRANK DAVIES, F.C.A., Chartered Accountant, Moorgate Station Chambers, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—W. B. THORNS, 56, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire the British patent, provisional protection for an improvement, and the secrets in connection with a process of manufacturing within the United Kingdom rubber articles of every description from waste rubber, indistinguishable from ordinary rubber articles.

EXPERTS' REPORTS.

Enclosed is the report of Mr. H. Bush upon the process. This report shows that he has been for more than 40 years in the rubber manufacturing trade, and that he has had a varied and extended experience with leading Rubber Companies both at home and abroad.

Mr. Bush having been the expert employed by the Vendors, the services of Mr. Herbert Wright, F.L.S., the well-known rubber expert, late Controller of the Government Experimental Station, Ceylon, and of Dr. Philip Schidrowitz, F.C.S., the well-known consulting chemist, and rubber specialist, member of the British Section of the International Rubber Testing Committee, were retained by the Vendors to advise the Board. The services of Mr. G. F. Berry, who whilst Managing Director of John Bennet Lawes and Company, Ltd., was Manager of the Millwall Rubber Company, have also been retained.

These experts have themselves had a number of articles made by the process, under their supervision, using various kinds of waste rubber, and speak in the highest terms of the process. The enclosed reports and extracts from the reports show the valuable nature of the process.

QUALITY.

Mr. Herbert Wright says:—

"The articles produced possessed all the external characteristics of new rubber goods, and in appearance were equal to the original rubber.

"I was specially pleased with the re-formed solid tyre, as the tests showed that it was excellent in every way."

Dr. Schidrowitz also made a number of tests of every description.

With regard to durability, he says that the chemical tests:—

"Are markedly favourable to the re-formed articles as compared with the original materials," and "The results of the abrasion and steam tests are also good. Inasmuch as the re-formed articles must be more homogeneous than new articles, they should possess an advantage as regards wear in this respect."

Mr. Bush says:—

"I cannot speak too highly of the process. It is simple, cheap, rapid and novel, whilst there is a large and profitable demand ready to hand at once.

"The quality of the rubber in the railway buffers, made by your process at about one-third the usual cost, is far superior to that of many buffers that I have made out of a similar grade of rubber by the ordinary process."

SELLING PRICE.

Dr. Schidrowitz says:—

"With waste material of the class in question at 5d. to 5½d. per lb., you should be able to make articles equal to those selling at 2s. to 3s. per lb." (£224 to £336 per ton), "assuming moderate crude rubber prices."

The following letter, received from Messrs. R. Woolf and Co., one of the oldest firms of rubber dealers in the trade, shows the profitable prices obtainable.

Here follows the valuation, which ends:—"We are, we believe, the oldest firm of rubber dealers in London, and handle tons of rubber every week, having to rely entirely on our judgment of both new and old rubber articles, and we find no difficulty in valuing the goods that you have made.

"We have no hesitation in saying that, if the old rubber has been made as above mentioned, the possibilities of your invention are enormous.

"Yours faithfully,

"R. WOOLF AND CO."

PROFITS.

It is evident that the turning of waste rubber into good saleable rubber at a cost of about 3d. per lb. should result in extremely large profits, such as are seldom met with in industrial enterprises.

The average selling price of the articles referred to in the certificate of Messrs. R. Woolf and Co. works out at over 2s. 9d. per lb. (£308 per ton), and the profit at over 2s. per lb. (£224 per ton), and naturally the more remunerative articles would be manufactured. Since the date of the valuation, the price of rubber has greatly increased.

On this subject, Dr. Schidrowitz says:—

"Taking waste rubber at 5d. to 5½d. per lb., a profit of £150 per ton should be readily obtainable."

Mr. Bush's report is as follows:—

"The total cost of the rubber when re-forming two tons per week of waste rubber costing 5d. per lb. would be under 8d. per lb., and your selling price, taking it at only 2s. per lb., would show a profit of 1s. 4d. per lb., say £150 per ton."

Taking the figures mentioned in the reports of Dr. Schidrowitz and Mr. Bush, an output of 10 tons per week should produce a profit available for dividend of over £50,000 per annum, after making ample allowance for expenses of every description.

Since the above valuation and calculations were made, there has been a very large increase in the price of rubber goods, as the price of rubber on the 4th inst. had increased over 30 per cent. This, of course, is much to the advantage of the Company.

CAPITAL OUTLAY.

The capital outlay required is extremely small. The reports of Dr. Schidrowitz show that the capital to be provided by the shares underwritten is ample for both plant and working capital for producing 500 tons per annum. This is confirmed by Mr. Bush and Mr. Berry. The capital now offered for subscription should be sufficient to enable the Company to turn out over 1,500 tons per annum.

The plant is all of the class now used in the rubber trade and is, as Mr. Herbert Wright says, "of the simplest possible description." It is easily and rapidly manufactured, and as excellent works can be obtained at once on rental, there should be no loss of time in starting work. Mr. Herbert Wright says: "It is possible by this process to manufacture finished rubber articles within a few hours from receipt of the scrap rubber at the works. There is no limit to the quantity of waste rubber which can be dealt with, and most of the work can be done with hand labour."

DEMAND.

The rubber industry is one of the most important and remunerative in Great Britain, and is rapidly increasing.

Hard rubber goods such as buffers, cones, solid tyres, flooring tiles, and valves, which this Company will manufacture, are in very large demand at from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per lb. This is when rubber is at normal prices.

LICENSES.

The Company has agreed to sell to the Endurite Manufacturing Co., Ltd., for £20,000 in cash, the sole license to re-form vulcanite or ebonite under the patent to be purchased by the Company and under any improvements which the Company may acquire.

WASTE RUBBER.

The waste rubber supply in the United Kingdom is believed to exceed 80,000 tons per annum. In any case it is far in excess of any requirements of this Company. The bulk of it is sold at from 3d. to 5d. per lb. The best qualities fetch from 1s. to 1s. 6d.

PATENT.

The report of Messrs. G. F. Redfern and Co., the well-known patent agents, has been obtained, copy of which is enclosed herewith, and is thoroughly satisfactory.

The opinion of Mr. W. R. Bousfield, K.C., the eminent patent counsel, appears in the full prospectus.

PURCHASE PRICE.

By the purchase agreement, the Industrial and Engineering Trust, Limited, who are the promoters, agree, in conjunction with Mr. B. Laing, to sell the patent rights and secrets to the Company for £20,000 in fully-paid Shares (the maximum proportion payable in shares if a Stock Exchange quotation is desired) and £46,750 in cash, out of which they pay all expenses up to allotment (except underwriting and overriding commissions and brokerage). Of the above, £20,000 will only be paid in exchange for the £20,000 receivable for the license, thus leaving £69,500 for working capital when the shares now offered for subscription are paid up.

The minimum subscription on which the Directors may proceed to allotment as fixed by the Articles of Association is 25,000 shares, but as subscriptions for 50,000 shares have been guaranteed the Directors will proceed to allotment upon the closing of the list.

Copies of the Experts' and Patent Agent's Reports, Counsel's opinion, the Articles of Association, Contracts, and samples of the articles made, can be seen at the offices of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, or Auditors, and at the Company's Office, or will be forwarded on receipt of a telegram addressed "Eturaline, London."

13th December, 1909.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION MAY BE USED.

This Form may be sent entire to Martin's Bank, Limited, 68, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

THE PREMIER RE-FORMING COMPANY, LIMITED

To the Directors of the Premier Re-forming Company, Limited

Gentlemen,—Herewith I enclose the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. per share payable on application for ..... shares in the above Company. I hereby request you to allot me the same, and I hereby agree to accept the same, and I agree to pay the instalments thereon as required in the terms of the prospectus; and I authorise you to place my name on the register in respect of such shares.

Name .....

(in full) .....

(Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

Description .....

Address .....

Date ..... 1909.

As an intending customer (selling agent) (strike out one of these), I request special consideration of my application because .....

Write clearly.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Blue Bird."

For poetic fancy, genius of imagination, and deepness of thought, Maurice Maeterlinck's "dream-play" at the Haymarket Theatre is undoubtedly a most remarkable work.

Unfortunately, though, the talented author has just missed his great intention by a series of contradictions, which might easily be put straight, to the advantage of his—at moments—extraordinarily beautiful ideas.

For instance, it is little Tyltyl and Mytyl, the son and daughter of a humble woodcutter and his wife, whom Mr. Maeterlinck elects to send forth at the bidding of the Fairy Bérylune on Christmas Eve in search of the unattainable—otherwise "Happiness," or "The Blue Bird," which ever flies too near to heaven to be caught by mortal hand.

In their journey through the "Land of Memory," "The Forest," and "The Kingdom of the Past," they meet once again their grandfathers and others who to them have been called "dead people," and when, in the Kingdom of the Past, the tiny sister cries out to her brother to take her away before the clock strikes twelve and not to let her see the remains of those she knew on earth emerge from their frosty tombs, the transformation from the ghostly stone monuments to the lovely garden of pure white lilies is one of those rare touches of inspiration that cause you to murmur involuntarily under your breath, "If this be death, then let me die here, now;" and the picture is complete when Mytyl whispers to her brother, "Where are the dead?" and Tyltyl replies solemnly, "There are no dead."

Could any dreamer of the "life beyond" conceive a more exquisite solution to its mystery? But no; Mr. Maeterlinck refuses to let us dwell with these thoughts uppermost in our minds, and back he goes again to his morbose tendency which, invariably, as with all this "Belgian Shakespeare's" efforts, leaves a blot or blur on what otherwise would be a *chef d'œuvre* of consummate skill.

He introduces us into "The Palace of Night," where Tyltyl demands the key from the Goddess of Darkness and unlocks a door which sets free all that is most horrible in the shape of death—bats, figures draped in shrouds, and skeletons which cavort and prance about the stage utterly ruining and dispelling the "happy-valley" of eternal beauty conjured up by the vision of tall, stately lilies Maurice Maeterlinck discloses in the "land of shadows" a few moments previously.

In this scene, however, Mrs. Saba Raleigh creates a profound impression as "Night." She is majestic, she is handsome, she speaks her lines well, her voice is clear and distinct, and nothing could convey more definitely the meaning of the whole theme of the play than the words Mrs. Raleigh utters as the curtain falls and she discovers that the children, even with the aid of "Light," have failed to catch "The Blue Bird."

"No . . . I see him there, on that moonbeam. . . . They could not reach him, he kept too high."

But of all the entrancing scenes, "The Kingdom of the Future" is the most absorbing. It is entirely novel in conception and originality, it startles everyone, and sets them thinking, the progress, the promise, the reform, the advance, the influence that is to take effect in "The Future" is so extraordinarily and exquisitely described by the unborn babes—the "brain fancies" of the poet Macterlinck—that this act alone should be sufficient to set the whole of London's playgoers talking about it.

One infinitely pathetic note is touched when "Time" arrives in his galley with its white and gold sails to fetch some of the little ones down to earth.

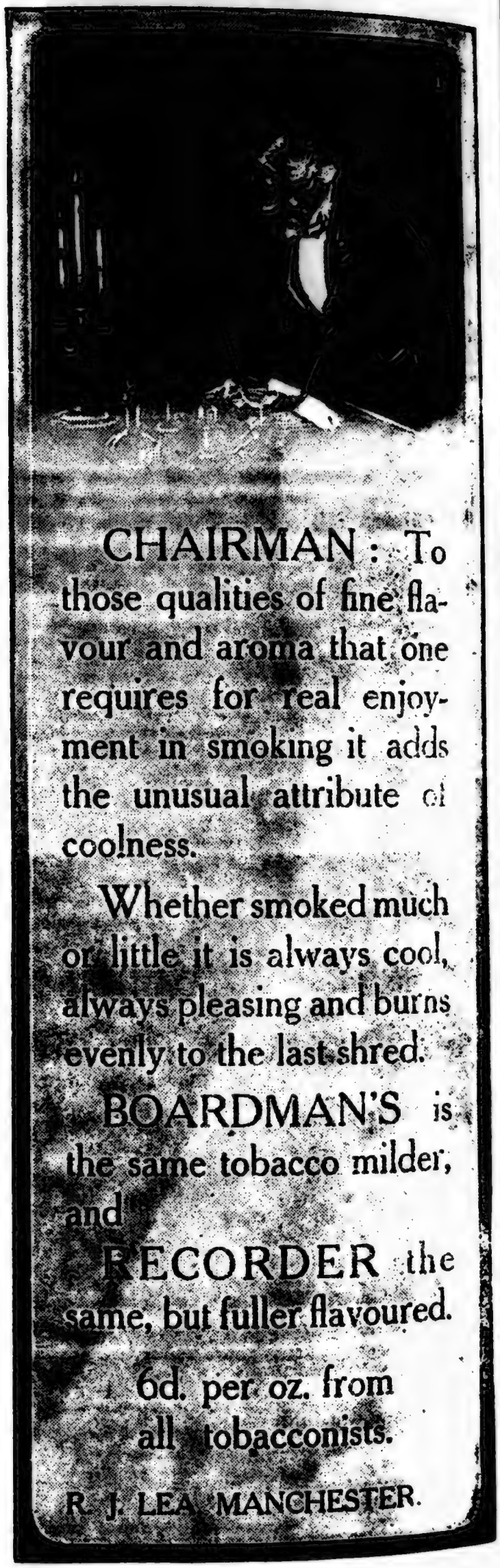
The new Haymarket play may be summed up then in a few words—it is one of fits and starts and alternately delights and depresses. It has in it a sincerity of purpose which is rare nowadays, and Alexander Teixeira de Mattos has done a most admirable translation of Maurice Maeterlinck's fairy story.

The Vampire Dance.

For grace of pose, sinuousness of form, beauty of limb, and loveliness of face, I have never seen anything more enchanting than Alice Eis, who, with her fascinating powers and panther-like movements, is enough to lure any creature to his doom.

There is a wild fantastic magic in the Vampire Dance as performed by Alice Eis, and Bert French at the Hippodrome, which so absorbs and enthralls you that in spite of the tragic finale of the turn, which you know must be the outcome of this demon-woman's wiles as she snares the hypnotised man with her blood-sucking kisses into her deadly net, you cannot fail to sit spellbound and awed with the wonderful way she works her triumphant sway, and gradually draws her victim to his doom.

I don't wonder that New York experienced the same thrills of horror and admiration in Keith's Vaudeville Halls that London is now doing, over this remarkable Vampire Dance, as executed by Alice Eis and Bert French at the Hippodrome. It is many a long year since so novel—if terrible—a sensation has been seen in public, and it should prove a trump card for the Cranbourne Street "Leading Variety Theatre."


CHAIRMAN: To those qualities of fine flavour and aroma that one requires for real enjoyment in smoking it adds the unusual attribute of coolness.
Whether smoked much or little it is always cool, always pleasing and burns evenly to the last shred.
BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco milder, and
RECORDER the same, but fuller flavoured.
6d. per oz. from all tobacconists.
R. J. LEA MANCHESTER.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS' GIFT TO THE PUBLIC.

A BOOK 224 PAGES,

with Coloured and Other Illustrations, Given as a FREE GIFT to all Who Apply.

VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CHRISTMAS "GIFTS" MYSTERY.

A capital book just issued to the public from a business house is that which Boots Cash Chemists have now ready to distribute. This book, copies of which are to be sent free to all who apply, consists of 224 pages of illustrated matter of interest to every member of the household. The man or woman who loses the opportunity of obtaining a copy of this work will surely have cause to be disappointed.

At this gift season there is nothing more worrying than to tramp from shop to shop to make up one's mind as to what to give. It may be with a limited amount to lay out in this special direction, the giver desires to secure presents for his relatives or friends that will reflect credit on himself, even though purchased at a small price.

It may be safely said that there is no wish in this special direction that cannot be responded to in Boots Cash Chemists' wonderful book. Whether you desire a dainty Scent Bottle, a Silver Toilet Set, a Picture, a Clock, a Picture Frame, or Books, hundreds of useful presents are there shown with a full description appended.

A special feature of the book is a series of coloured illustrations. The plates inserted represent the highest form of the art of reproduction, and one can imagine what an enormous amount of energy and labour combined with artistic skill has been necessary to give to the public actual reproductions of the colourings of Hand Bags, Perfume Cases, and many other useful articles.

It is well known that the gigantic business of Boots Cash Chemists has grown to such an extent that they supply practically everything but food and clothing for the public. A glance through the book to which we refer certainly proves this, and as the prices for their goods are made in accordance with their general rule of small profits and quick returns, it may be readily seen that it is well worth while to study their list.

There are few London districts and Provincial towns that do not possess one or more branches of Boots Cash Chemists. It is suggested that when "present-time" arrives you should first pay a visit to one of its Branch establishments, and examine carefully the various articles displayed. It is not necessary to make a purchase when calling—you are invited to make a tour of inspection, and if you are convinced that Boots offer greater value than can be obtained elsewhere, then if you wish you may purchase.

It is quite remarkable that in one establishment there should be so many branches of Industry collected together. Go into any of the various Boots branches and you will find there not only a complete, fully-equipped Chemist's Shop, but a Jeweller's, Bookseller's, Art Leather Goods and Librarian's establishment. It is impossible to imagine any dainty article for the boudoir table, any desire for personal adornment that is not to be found at Boots'.

No better advice could be given than this :—

SEND FOR THE BOOK,

read it, and then proceed to any of Boots' principal Branches and inspect the various articles displayed.

Those desiring copies of the book should send their applications at once to Boots Cash Chemists, 114, 116, 118, Edgware Road, W., or to Station Street, Nottingham.

Do not leave the sending of your application until a later date; remember that Christmas is fast approaching and you will have need for such a book as Boots' offer you.

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

GENTLEMEN'S OVERCOATS FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY WEAR

Motor Coat.
With detachable leather lining.
Colours: Brown and Grey.
79/6
Usually sold at 90/-

Walking Coat.
All Wool Scotch Tweed. In dark and medium Greys.
Perfect fitting collar and shoulders.
35/-
Worth 45/-

Fur-Lined Coat.
In dark Grey Friese for Motoring, or Black French Cloth for Professional or Dress Wear, lined with Marmot Fur
£5 5 0
Worth £6 6s. Better qualities 7 and 9 Gns.

Style-Books of Coats' Ready-to-Wear Clothing Post Free.

WHITELEYS

Westbourne Grove • London • W

W. WHITELEY LTD

BULL'S EYES.

Items of Interrogation:—

Will the General Election produce Radical changes?
Isn't Lord Roberts getting "flighty"?
Will the Socialist—Labour—Liberally?
How will *Peter Pan* out this year?
Do Cadbury's find that farthing "grateful and comforting"?
Doesn't the Brown Dog cost too much to "keep"?
Is Sir Francis Vane?
Does "Richard is Gallienne" mean "Richard the Gallant"?
Why not give the Crystal Palace "another show"?
Is the Circulating Libraries' Association composed of old women?

Curious that a would-be M.P. has to find a "seat" before he can "stand."

"Mr. Lloyd George to Stump London," reads a headline. But London is not easily "stumped."

"We are going to hold an inquest on the corpse of the House of Lords," says Mr. Waverley. This means a p.m. by M.P.'s.

An apparatus by which street lamps can be lighted and extinguished from the works has been invented. The lamplighter will be "put out."

A horse named The Pilot won a race at Newbury. It showed the others the way.

A play which has a silent woman for a heroine has been produced. Married men will flock to see it.

A man sentenced for begging at Sutton Coldfield was found to have £45 in his pockets. Lucky beggar.

During the late Session, the total number of divisions in the House of Commons was 920. Does this include the divisions in the Cabinet?

A new Christmas carol is described as "the carol of the century." But the century is not very old yet.

Pay a plain woman a compliment and she at once becomes a coloured one.

"The Disc"—which has just been published—is apparently an all-round piece of work.

"A pessimist is a person who has lived with an optimist," says the *Circle*. And an optimist is a person who can live with a pessimist.

The humorist who offered to sell himself for twelve months for £200 evidently expected someone to take him at his own valuation.

Judge Bacon confesses that he never tips railway porters. Is he a poor judge?

A Buddington man has carried off more than 200 prizes for hedging. Some of our politicians could beat this.

It is a curious fact that no wedding can take place without a "hitch."

"A private theatrical enterprise is a desperate gamble," says G. B. Shaw. But it is all right for the one who gets the "lead."

Cupid was the name of a boy remanded at Yarmouth on a charge of undoing the moorings of a vessel. Up to mischief, as usual.

"Armed Burglar Caught," reads a headline. Had he no legs?

Two Paris journalists, fighting a duel, were very nearly hurt by the splintering of their swords. Duelling is getting quite dangerous.

The Mayor of Brightlingsea is always elected in the belfry of the parish church. Is "pulling the ropes" part of the ceremony?

"Many a man has got to heaven because his wife has been a good cook," says Mr. H. S. Schultess-Young. Or because she hasn't?

"The House of Commons is full of automatic penny-in-the-slot machines," says Keir Hardie. But very few of them work.

The Kaiser has invented a flying uniform. We always thought he was of a designing disposition.

"Christmas Cake that Weighs a Ton," we read. Nothing new.

We read of £13,000 found in a garden. A good plant.

According to the *Observer*, "Tariff is Trumps." Who will do the shuffling?

The Bishop of London said recently: "I hate all this talk of the country going to the dogs." What says the Bishop of Barking?

A new vegetable is called the "sun plant." A light dish.

A contemporary has an article on "The chilly days of marriage." When it has proved a frost, we suppose.

Miss Tree has entered a new branch, as a singer.

Heading: "Sugar Beet." More bad grammar.

The Polar Bears at the Zoo have removed to their new quarters. Will they want a Cook?

Many consider that the game at Lords was not cricket. But it is a question who will go in next.

It is Xtravagant

to buy new things when your old ones can be successfully renovated and made not only fit for use, but actually to look almost as new. And that is what the Achille Serre scientific Dry-cleaning process can do for your soiled and stained suits, dresses or curtains.

We have practised this process for over 30 years with the utmost success, and we are sure we can please you. It does not cost much—only 3/9 for a complete suit—and the time taken is but a few days.

Write to-day for a copy of our pamphlet "Clothes and the Man" and the address of our nearest branch or agency.

Achille Serre, Ltd.,

(Nettoyage a Sec)

Hackney Wick, London, E.

Phone 1265 East.

YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP

SAVES TIME—Because its flat creamy lather does not dry.

Discomfort—because it leaves the skin soothed and comforted.

Money—because it is so economical in use.

It is all British and the BEST on the market. 1/- post free, or from your chemist.

Sample on receipt of 1d. stamp for postage to—

Stratford, London, E., Dept. "A."

1,000,000 Free Shampoos for Cleansing and Beautifying the Hair.

A SPLENDID GIFT TO THE READERS OF THIS PAPER.

BE SURE AND WRITE TO-DAY.

"Nowadays every man and woman who desires either to preserve or enhance the luxuriance and attractive appearance of his or her hair must give it a thorough shampooing once or twice every week."

This startling, though absolutely true, statement, has recently been made by the leading living authority on Hair-Culture, a gentleman who has studied the subject all his life and who numbers amongst his clients many of the most beautiful women and cultivated men in present-day Society.

A LUXURY OF THE PAST, BUT A NECESSITY OF THE PRESENT DAY.

In days gone by, of course, the twice-a-week shampoo was by no means a necessity of hair-health and beauty.

The shampoo was then a luxury (just as was tea at 24s. a pound), and was only indulged in by the wealthy.

And as men and women (especially the latter) did not live then the strenuous, city-confined lives we do to-day, their hair was not subjected to the adverse influences it is at the present time

To realise what these "influences" mean we have only to look about us and see the number of men and women whose hair has lost either most of its luxuriance or most of its colour, which has become thin, straggling, or prematurely grey.

THE SENSITIVE STRUCTURE OF THE HAIR.

The reason is, of course, that the hair is the most delicate and sensitive part of the whole body, and that the changed conditions of modern life which have undoubtedly injured the general health of the community, have injured the hair most of all.

This is why the hair should be thoroughly and frequently shampooed in order to preserve it against the adverse influences which otherwise will cause it to fall out or to lose its colour and health and beauty.

These adverse influences are stronger in towns than in the country and therefore men and women whose business or pleasure causes them to live amid the smoke-charged and dust-laden atmosphere of cities need to shampoo their hair more frequently than need country dwellers.

Cleanliness of the scalp and hair is the very foundation of Hair Health and Beauty. Do not, however, use ordinary soap, which contains strong caustics, which dry up and destroy the delicate structure of the hair. There is now no need to use ordinary soaps for the purpose. Mr. Edwards, the Royal Hair Specialist, here offers to send trial packets of his special "Cremex" Shampoo Powder for cleansing the hair and scalp. After you have used it you will not fail to note how beautifully it cleanses the scalp and hair, not only without injuring it in the least, but actually exercising a healthful and "toning-up" influence upon it. First send for the Free Outfit here offered to every reader, and ever afterwards you will know how to so take care of your hair that it will always remain as evidence of the good care you take of yourself.

THE AVERAGE SHAMPOO TIME-TABLE.

In the opinion of Mr. Edwards, the eminent discoverer of Harlene-for-the-Hair and of the Harlene "Hair-Drill," the average Shampoo time-table should be as follows:—

For those who live in the country, once a week.

For those who live in the towns, twice a week.

By following this toilet-practice regularly, week in and week out, any man or woman—who lives either in the country or in the town—can grow luxuriant and beautiful hair, free from all weakness, greyness, discoloration, or the slightest sign of Baldness.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR IS SHAMPOOED HAIR.

Really Beautiful Hair is cleansed hair.

And to be thoroughly cleansed the Hair must be regularly shampooed with a safe, scientifically prepared tonic shampoo-powder, which will give it that shimmering, halo-like radiance which evokes the admiration of everyone.

Now to enable everybody to see for themselves how beautifully glossy, softly silken, and richly radiant the hair will become when properly shampooed, Mr. Edwards, the discoverer of Harlene-for-the-Hair and the Harlene "Hair-Drill," has decided to distribute amongst those who take in this paper:

1,000,000 "CREMEX" SHAMPOO POWDERS.

"Cremex" being a special preparation he has discovered for the use of those ladies and gentlemen who desire to grow glossy and beautiful Hair.

"Cremex" is the most delightful shampoo powder ever yet invented.

It is perfectly safe to use, is not inflammable, and contains nothing whatever of a harmful or injurious character.

"Cremex" is, in fact, a shampoo-powder designed especially for use in the home.

Every man, woman, or even child, can shampoo their hair with "Cremex" without any fear of it doing anything but good to the hair.

Cremex makes the hair soft, silken, and of a beautiful gloss and radiance. It prevents the hair becoming lank and slinging. Unlike some shampoo powders, it does not leave the hair sticky and greasy. On the contrary, it keeps the hair thoroughly free from dust and the scalp perfectly clean of scurf or dandruff. Parents should certainly see that their children's hair—as well as their own—is shampooed regularly with Cremex, and besides using it in your home, you should always see whenever you have your hair shampooed at a hairdresser's that Cremex is used, and not "some unknown and possibly dangerous substance out of a bottle."

TRY THIS FREE PERSONAL TEST.

Just try Cremex for yourself and see what a beautiful Shampoo Powder it is.

Such a test will cost you nothing, and you will be very glad afterwards that you have tried it.

All you have to do is to write to the Edwards' Harlene Co., 95 and 96, High Holborn, London, W.C., enclosing coupon below with 3d. in stamps for return postage, and in return you will be sent:—

1. A Supply of Cremex Shampoo Powder for a Personal Test.
2. A Bottle of Harlene - For - The - Hair containing sufficient for one week's daily trial.
3. A Copy of Mr. Edwards' well-known book on Hair-Culture, containing amongst other useful and interesting information a copy of Mr. Edwards' private directions for the world-famous Hair-Culture Method.

Subsequent supplies of Harlene can be obtained from all leading chemists and stores in 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. bottles, and of "Cremex" Shampoo Powders in boxes of six for one shilling. If unobtainable in your district supplies may be had direct and post free on receipt of postal order at The Harlene Offices, 95 and 96, High Holborn, London, W.C.

FREE TRIAL COUPON.

This Coupon entitles its holder to a Free Outfit for Increasing the Beauty and Growth of the Hair, as described in the above article.

To THE EDWARDS' HARLENE CO.,
95 and 96, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Kindly send me one of the Toilet Outfits as per your offer in above article. I enclose 3d. in stamps to cover the postal charges to any part of the world.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

JOHN BULL, Dec. 18, 1909. .....

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," AND* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

C. G. G. (London, W.) sends us an amusing account of a séance which he attended, under the mediumship of Mr. J. J. Vango, of 61, Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, "Clairvoyant, Magnetic Healer, Masseur," whose scale of fees to "investigators" is as follows: "Monday, 8.30 p.m., 1s.; Wednesday, 8 p.m. (select), 2s.—and in which he fooled the medium to the top of his bent." We recommend Mr. Vango to "Julia's Bureau."

THE REV. CHAS. H. CHARD, Rector of Spitalfields—apropos our recent reference to East End goose clubs—gives us information showing that, at all events, *his* club is all right.

"WESTONIAN" (Weston-super-Mare) sends us a leading article from the local *Gazette*, dealing with the House of Commons' reply to the action of the Lords, and evidently written before the debate—as will be gathered from the following quotation: "Mr. Balfour's indisposition saved him from a very embarrassing situation." Nothing like being in advance of the times.

H. C. (Brixton) writes:—"Why do people when they read your letters gush over them and say how true it all is, and cannot speak too well of them, but when I give my opinion of things, although it is the same as yours, all I get is, 'Oh, don't take any notice of him, there is something wrong with his liver, or he is narrow-minded'? I sometimes think it very unfair. I will now ask you a question, Do you suffer with your liver?"

F. R. (Nottingham) asks whether there is a school for training cooks and stewards for the British Merchant Service. Is there?

J. S. (Cardiff) relates an anecdote about Lord Charles Beresford insisting on sitting on the paddle-box of a steamer in defiance of regulations. But Charlie has always been fond of his own way.

E. C. (Suffolk Lane).—Nude models are not necessarily to be withheld from art classes. What do you suggest in this particular case?

D. Ll. P. (Llanelly) has been having an argument whether it is possible to have 14s. in English silver coins and yet not have change for half a sovereign. Our poor head!

B. W. (Windsor).—Our readers are numerous in other places, too.

"FRIEND IN NEED" (Alnwick).—Pull yourself together and sign your name next time if you must offer gratuitous advice. We fear that you are not destined to make a successful editor.

A. H. M. R. (Oldham) writes:—"What has Jim Crow to say about the Boy Scouts? His opinion would repay the trouble of reading it." We wired to Jim and paid for the reply, which runs as follows: "Silly little blighters." Just like Jim.

A. M. M. C. (Wood Green).—We saw the contradiction, but it was not very convincing.

R. W. (Clapham) inquires the number of peerages created by Mr. Balfour during his last Ministry. But Lord Knollys has reminded us that peerages are created by the King.

"DISGUSTED CONSERVATIVE" (Pontypridd) sends us an attack upon Mr. Churchill which is evidently the work of a lunatic. We agree that Conservatives may well pray to be saved from their friends. But they must watch as well as pray.

"CARLISLE" (Measgate, E.S.O.) asks: "Has a policeman the power to interrupt a harvest festival hall of fruit, etc., and order the 'auctioneer' to start at a high price and come down in price, instead of the usual way?" We should have thought not, but we do not know the particular circumstances.

"GREEN" (Letterston) asks if there is "any law, written or unwritten, about the abuse of wearing hospital sisters' and nurses' garb." We suppose that, as these persons are not public officials, they have no monopoly of their uniform.

"DOUGLAS" (Leeds) thinks it "ill-natured and a gutter-snipe trick" and "nothing but spleen and envy" to attack dukes. He says: "They are subject to the usual faults, failings, and virtues of humanity." As an instance of their virtue he mentions certain benefactions of the Duke of Buccleuch; but we never denied that landlords occasionally feel compelled to do something for their tenants.

"ARMOURER" (H.M.S. *Natal*) says that the staff of armourers is overworked and underpaid.

THE Investment for 1910.

LAND PLOTS IN MELVILLE, THE NEW METROPOLIS OF WESTERN CANADA.

Prices from £25 to £1,000.

Less Impossible. Security Absolute. Profits Prodigious.

The coming Railway centre. Population rapidly growing. Your Capital will Treble in value next year. Over 100 Plots sold last month. Write at once for plans and particulars.—

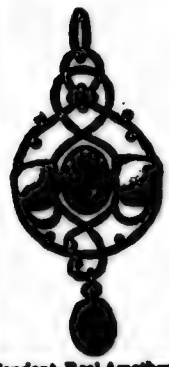
"Mid-West" Agency, 21, Duncan, Rd., Longsight, Manchester.

GRENFELL, FRAZIER'S

XMAS & NEW YEARS GIFTS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

18 ct. Gold, Four Diamonds and Three Rubies or Sapphires. £2 10 0.



Pendant, Real Amethysts £1 1 0.

Tiepin, 15 ct. Gold, Real Pearl, 15s. 9d.

There is twice the pleasure in giving a Christmas Present which is useful as well as pretty. Well-meaning people waste thousands of pounds every year upon "pretty" gifts, which are utterly valueless to the recipients.

JEWELLERY IS ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE.

Ladies as well as gentlemen prefer gifts of jewellery because such gifts are useful and ornamental. A brooch, a ring, a bangle, a tie-pin, these make unfailingly welcome Christmas gifts. The great variety of our stock makes gift-choosing delightfully easy. Our Catalogue illustrates hundreds of distinctive and dainty new designs; all priced at wholesale.

ALL OUR GEMS ARE GENUINE,

and our hall-mark is the English hall-mark—the highest standard of hall-marking jewellery. Our 20 years' reputation is an adequate guarantee of satisfaction to every buyer; besides which

we freely exchange any article not approved.

GET OUR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

free on request. Full of undeniable bargains in every kind of jewellery.

We supply customers

ALL OVER THE WORLD

with our jewellery at wholesale prices, and we have never had a dissatisfied customer on our books.

Send Postcard for Catalogue To-day.

GRENFELL, FRAZIER & CO., (Dept. 60),

12, 14, 16, EDGWARE ROAD, LONDON.

(Near Marble Arch).

Mr. E. T. REED ("of Punch") has drawn in colours screamingly funny cards for the great new game "Panko," or "Votes for Women."

"Panko" has been an immediate success. It has not been out a fortnight—thousands are already playing it. "Panko" parties are the order of the day—not to "Pank" is to be out of it. Take a pack home to-night. The drawings are worth the price, to say nothing of the fun you'll get.

Panko

The Great Game.

Price 2/- from all Stores, Stationers and Newsagents, and from

PETER GURNEY, Ltd., 2, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.

WE DELIVER our Perfected "CORONA-PHONE" and 6 Superb Records for 5/- and your promise of nine monthly payments of 5/- if you are entirely satisfied. This Splendid Disc Machine has all the latest perfections, and plays the finest records ever produced. Endless refined amusement and pleasure for all your family circle. Talking machine owners should send for our GREAT OFFER of DISC RECORDS on Easy Terms.

Catalogue Free.

All makes and prices sent on SEVEN DAYS APPROVAL

WE ASK FOR ONLY 5/-

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RHODES' "HEALU" MEDICINE

FOR PILES and HÆMORRHOIDS.

The ony guaranteed cure in the world. From chemists or from

HENRY RHODES & CO., 3 & 5 Chryssell Road, Brixton.

at 2/3 Per Bottle.

Samuda's Great Xmas Offer!

The Machine that everybody is talking about.
A Most Acceptable Xmas Gift.
A Mechanical Marvel. All Smokers want one.

COSTS
Post **8/6** Free
ONLY.

THE Automatic Stork Cigarette Cabinet.

There is no doubt about it, the Stork Cigarette Cabinet (as illustrated) is a gift which any smoker will appreciate. It is certainly the Season's most attractive novelty. On pressing a lever, the Stork dips its bill in the Cigarette Box, selects a Cigarette and presents it to the Smoker. Each Cabinet is beautifully made and finished in Antique Copper with ornamental bill in front. The Bird itself is in fine Electro Silver. The mechanism (which is too simple to get out of order) and the Cigarette Container are comp'etely hidden from view.

This Cabinet, in artistic Antique Copper, will be sent post free by J. Samuda, Ltd., on receipt of postal order for 8s. 6d. Supplied also in Antique Solid Brass for 12s. 6d., post free.

ANOTHER "SAFE" GIFT FOR SMOKERS.

This Box Contains about 170 hand-made "Avoca" Cigarettes.

This Christmas Box contains about 170 of the choicest Hand-made Cigarettes it is possible to procure. They are the famous "Avoca" Cigarettes—the Connoisseur's favourite Smoke. The purchaser has the choice of Virginia, Turkish or Egyptian. In dealing direct with Samuda's the purchaser buys in the cheapest market. Similar quality cigarettes are sold by Retail Tobacconists everywhere, at 5s. the hundred.

Post Free **5/-** Send for this Box of about 170 "Avoca" Cigarettes and learn by experience how Samuda's save money for the smoker, and, at the same time, provide him with better quality Cigarettes.

Both these Christmas Lines obtainable from

J. SAMUDA, Ltd. (Dept. 2), 34, Leadenhall St., London, E.C.

N.B.—As Orders will be filled in strict rotation, early application should be made.

"Pro Bono Publico" (Surrey) asks us to keep an eye on the man who gave a religious tract to a hungry man. We agree that something should have been wrapped up in that tract.

"A Citizen" says that cottages without water supply, and unfit for human habitation, are not rare in Cornwall. Where are the sanitary inspectors?

"Stet" (Taunton).—Of course, we do not defend immorality. We merely regard it as a personal concern. Surely you exaggerate when you say, "The woman who loses her virtue before marriage, whether under promise of marriage or other cloak, is as bad, *even worse*, than the unfortunate Jezebel who eks out an existence on the streets of our big cities." The italics are ours. We are not surprised that you hesitate to enclose your name.

"X. Z." (Slough) asks if the swords used in the British Army are made in Germany, although supplied by a Sheffield firm. He is probably thinking of the Wilkinson Sword Company, which is owned by Germans.

W. M. F. (Motherwell) wants to know if the firm of Macdonald and Pearson is still at Monte Video. The only clue is that he thinks they are drapers.

J. W. S. (Scunthorpe) would gladly go without a day's food if he could not get John Bull otherwise. He evidently devours us.

T. R. (Lancs.) wants us to omitt "such *humbug* as 'Imaginary Interviews'"! He considers them "disgraceful twaddle." Oh dear us!

"John Bull, Jun." (Bucks), denies that Stiggins is dead, and says he has merely removed to Whitehall.

J. L. (Chatham), replying to H. C. (Sheffield), says that a certain Percy Kelso Macdonald, describing himself as the Australian Orator, victimised some people at Chatham about twelve months ago.

The Editor of the *Bluejacket and the Soldier* sends us a copy of his paper, and we are glad to hear that he is chastising his compositor for the misprint "John *Dull*."

J. O. (South Wales).—The Hygienic Institute has just recently defended two cases for negligence.

S. V. W. (Cork) does not think that Mr. Haldane has done any good to the soldier up to the present, and says that "under the new clothing scheme a soldier is a lot out of pocket."

M. C. S. (Edgware) is annoyed with some people who object to dancing in a parish hall in a churchyard on the ground that "dancing over the bones of ancestors is not right." He thinks that, if these people were logical, they would not dance anywhere lest there should be bones underneath. After all, it is a matter of sentiment.

J. W. A. (Leicester) complains that the Midland Railway Company have given orders that the whole staff at Leicester shall wear black ties, at their own expense. He suggests that the idea is to put them in mourning for the probable demise of the Midland Railway, and expects that white breeches and white stockings and high hats will be the next order.

R. H. (Plymouth) informs us that C. H. Stevens advertises a certain cure for consumption on the no-cure-no-pay system. Our correspondent paid £5 12s. 6d. down, but is unable to obtain a return of his money. The treatment failed to do him the slightest benefit.

V. M. G. (Gorleston-on-Sea) answered an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph* asking for a young gentleman desirous of learning French. He was to receive good board and slight remuneration in exchange for slight menial services. In reply, he received a letter from M. Daniel, proprietor of the Forest Hotel, Arques-la-Bataille, near Dieppe, inviting him to proceed to Dieppe at his own expense and pay 1s. 7½d. per day at the hotel. He would have to work for twelve hours a day at a silk factory and receive 2s. 8d. a day as commencing wages, out of which he would be expected to deposit a security of 2d. a day for a year out of his wages. It certainly does not sound very generous, but, if genuine, it would perhaps afford him an opportunity of picking up a smattering of French.

A. S. (Newcastle) says that many sanatoriums want looking into.

"Vigilant" (Teignmouth).—We see no reason why a parson should not vindicate his honour by prosecuting a parishioner for libel. You give us no facts.

"T. W. Nemo" (Cardiff) describes the methods of the Albion Portrait Company, 31, Clare Street, Cardiff, which appear far from satisfactory.

A. J. M. (Notting Hill) accuses us of making an insane remark with reference to the destruction of the ships of our enemies; but for what other purpose does our Navy exist?

"Humanitas" (London, E.C.) writes: "Nearly every day, from about 12—1 p.m., may be observed standing outside Westminster Hospital a crowd of poor, pale, and ill-clad people waiting for admission. Delicate, sickly women with bronchial babies, crutched and bandaged men and boys, all waiting in the soaking rain, piercing wind, snow, or scorching sun, until the authorities are pleased to open the gates." We agree that waiting rooms ought to be provided.

"New Forest" says there ought not to be any deer in the New Forest, as Parliament ordered their removal in 1851.

C. E. C. (Wealdstone) has noticed that enormous sums of money are left to hospitals, and wonders whether the sick benefit or whether the money is being spent in large salaries. He says that, "To those who are blessed with a little common sense, the medical profession must appear the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on mankind."

R. F. (Kennington) speaks well of the Theatrical Mission and Home, and informs us that the management is excellent and food is supplied without stint.

"Vertex" (Birmingham) accuses a local postman of tampering with letters and parcels, but does not favour us with his own name. We are not to be inveigled into libel actions so easily.

J. O. (East Croydon) says that canteens are "living hells," and ought to be abolished, and that drink is a "torrent of iniquity." Here's luck!

"A Constant Reader" (North Kensington) wants to know the longest time Mr. Chamberlain ever took to make a speech. Mr. Biggar once spoke for four hours, but we believe Joe has run him pretty close.

Oatine

To ensure a clean and comfortable shave use good shaving soap, such as either the OATINE SHAVING CREAM (in tubes) or the OATINE SHAVING STICK, both of which are lanolin-made, and most carefully prepared for the purpose, the cream giving a heavy, and the stick a lighter, close-lying lather, but being alike in this, that both give a free, smooth lasting and agreeable lather that will not dry on the face. If you have not tried either of the OATINE SOAPS for shaving do so without delay.

To relieve the irritation caused by shaving there is nothing so effective as OATINE CREAM, which possess so special healing properties; it should be applied immediately after shaving, and should be gently rubbed into the skin, or, better still, rubbed into the beard overnight or before the morning shave. This has the effect of softening the beard in a most astonishing manner.

FREE SAMPLES

of OATINE CREAM and OATINE SOAP will be sent to all applicants, together with a copy of our booklet, on send 2d. in stamps (Half-penny stamps preferred) for a box containing samples of eight different preparations.

THE OATINE CO., 270a, Denman Street, London, S.E.

Before buying your Xmas Cigars,

send P.O. 16/- for sample 50.

La Flor de Wintora, Perfectos Finos.

Mild and Fragrant Tobacco.

Approved by local Ironmasters.

32/- per 100. 30/- per 100 for 500.

WINTERSCHLADEN & CO., LTD.,

WINE MERCHANTS,

Lord Zetland Rd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.

I Cured my RUPTURE

and will help you FREE

Nearly helpless from two bad ruptures, Capt. Collings found himself gradually growing worse. No truss would hold. Doctors gave little hopes of any benefit, even from an operation. Finding no relief, he resorted to his own ingenuity, and, unaided, discovered the key to the whole difficulty, and cured himself quickly without any pain.

The news of his curing himself after doctors had given up, spread far and wide. Those who learned of the secret and adopted its use are perfectly cured.

I am so delighted with the cure that I want every ruptured person to know of the cure and free themselves of their rupture. I will gladly send full information, together with the FREE TEST, so you can start at once to get cured. Describe your rupture, and state what you have done to get relief, so I can help you. What cured others, surely should cure you. Do not hesitate to write at once. Simply fill in and send coupon below, and all will be sent you Free.

FREE TEST COUPON.

Capt. W. A. Collings & Sons (Box 11),
32, Theobald's Road, London, W.C.

Dear Sirs,—Send me Free the information and Test, that I may cure my Rupture.

Name .....

Address .....

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THE MIGHTY ENERGISER.

FATAL SHAMPOO

Owing to the disastrous results occurring recently through the use of dangerous shampoos, the public are warned against buying anything but the best.

We guarantee our shampoo to be

Free from Tetrachloride,

or any injurious chemicals, and this is confirmed by Mr. E. J. Parry, B.Sc., T.I.C., F.C.S., under analysis.

Of all Hairdressers and Hairdressers' Sundriesmen, or sent direct, on receipt of P.O. for 1/6, from

BERENGER FRERES, Ltd.,
5, Exchange Parade, Southwark St., London, S.E.

For giving lustre and beautifying the hair after shampoo, send 1/6 for large-sized bottle of our delicately perfumed

BRILLIANTINE

L. & C. Hardtmuth's Patent

Cigar Piercer

A TRULY HAPPY IDEA.

Though men's wants are many, yet it must be admitted there is great difficulty in finding a suitable gift for him. Here is a truly happy idea you can put into force this Christmas. Buy him one of Hardtmuth's Patent Cigar Piercers. This Piercer drills a clean hole in the Cigar without the slightest injury to the leaf. Further, it expels the only baneful part of a cigar—the dust collected in the centre.

Prices 6d. and 1/- in Nickel. In Silver from 5/- upwards. In Gold from 21/- upwards. The Silver and Gold series are manufactured by the celebrated firm of S. Mordan & Co., Ltd., 41, City Road, London, who will send illustrated particulars post free on application.

Of all Jewellers, Tobacconists, etc.
L. & C. HARDTMUTH, 12, Golden Lane, London, E.C.

£100 TO £10,000

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Also

If you are entitled to money or property under Will, Deeds or Reversions I can arrange you an advance at a very low rate of interest within a Few Hours.

BEFORE APPLYING ELSEWHERE,
DO NOT FAIL TO CALL OR WRITE TO

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Commission paid on any business introduced.

AN IDEAL XMAS PRESENT.

"BOTTOMLEY'S BOOK."

Brimful of Human Interest—Racy Anecdotes—Unique Experiences.

"The Remarkable Book of a Remarkable Man."

POPULAR EDITION 1s. CLOTH BOUND 2s. 6d.

Of all Newsagents and Booksellers.

The Ideal Christmas Gift.

Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen

As a kindly, tactful, tangible token of friendship and goodwill, one might search the World over and never find the equal of Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen.

PRICES: 10/6, 12/6, 15/-, 17/6, 21/-, and upwards.

In Silver and Gold for presentation. Of Stationers & Jewellers, etc. Booklet, post free, from L. & C. HARDTMUTH, 12, Golden Lane, London, E.C. New York; 173, Broadway; Paris; 6, Rue de Hanovre; Vienna; 1, Franzensring, 10; Milan; Via Bossi 4; Dresden; Prageretrasse 6; Brussels; 14, Rue de Pont Neuf.)

N.B.—Ask your Stationer to show you WATERMAN'S IDEAL PUMP FILLING AND SAFETY PENS. Price 12/6 and upwards.

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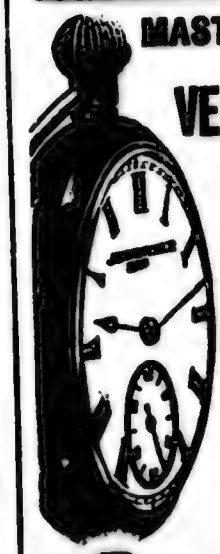

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VERACITY LEVER.

Gold 60/- (5/- Monthly.)
Silver 30/- (2/6 Monthly.)

THE BEST XMAS GIFT for Son or Father.

MASTERS' "VERACITY" WATCH is built by experts and guaranteed by a firm whose reputation extends back 40 years, and Patronised by Royalty. Its jewelled mechanism is timed and tested to the greatest accuracy, and fitted in solid silver cases, its time-keeping is TRUE, it varies less than one minute a month. Our terms are 27/- cash; 30/- easy terms.

Send 2/6, and own a Veracity Watch which will last 20 years. It makes an ideal Xmas Gift from father to son.

2/6 MONTHLY

To enable readers of JOHN BULL to own a reliable Watch, MASTERS, Ltd., will supply their famous 30/- Silver VERACITY for

2/6 FIRST Payment.
2/6 on delivery.
2/6 MONTHLY.

Send 2/6 and have 30/- Watch now.
60/- gold keyless (5/- monthly).

35/-

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR DAUGHTER.

LADY'S GOLD WATCH. A sensible, pleasing, and inexpensive Xmas Gift. Jewelled Movement, Keyless Action, Fancy Dial, Solid Gold Cases (stamped), beautifully engraved true time-keeping Gold Watch, price 31/6 Cash, or 35/- Easy Terms. SEND 2/6 NOW, pay 2/6 on receipt, and 2/6 monthly. 7 years signed warranty.

EASY TERMS. For either watch send 2/6 now. Pay 2/6 on delivery, and 5/- monthly.

No. 50. 1 Diamond, 2 Rubies, 18 ct., 30/-

No. 61. 18-ct., 6 Diamonds, 3 Rubies, 30/-

CATALOGUE AND SPECIAL LIST OF XMAS GIFT POST FREE

MASTERS, LTD., 98, Hope Stores, RYE, ENGD.

J. C. B. (Stockport) gives his experiences of the Society for Sea-Going Stewards. He filled up a form at Birkenhead, and was given an appointment to meet a representative at Cardiff. On arriving there, he heard nothing more, so he went specially to Liverpool to make inquiries at the office of the Society. There he was received with great discourtesy until he let out that he had not yet paid his fee of £1, as he was prepared to do.

S. J. (Edmonton) says that welfare and contentment are not so forward now as in mediæval times. His mother taught in ragged schools and he thinks there was good done. He informs us that at noon the Angelus bell and the factory whistle sounded together. We wonder which attracted more attention.

J. J. B. (Thame) says farmers can get only 10s. a score or 6d. a pound for pigs, while feeding stuff is dear, and the Swine Fever Act contains absurd regulations.

H. B. (London, N.).—The Census of 1901 gives the population of Lancashire as 4,387,043, and the Administrative County of London as 4,536,541. "Registration London" is stated to contain one person more! "Greater London" has 6,581,371 inhabitants. So, from whatever point of view you regard the Metropolis, you have won your bet that it contains more inhabitants than Lancashire.

A. S. (Newcastle).—If we alluded to all American Evangelists who take a special interest in cash, we should have our hands full.

T. K. D. (Stoke Newington) asks if we will be good enough to enlighten him as to the number of grains of corn which a pauper has to grind per day at the Marylebone Workhouse. We will spend our next holiday in counting them.

M. G. (Ealing) writes: "As a general servant, no one laments the present day abuse of the nurses' uniform more than I do. I hate to see a travesty of a nurse's bonnet behind the sausage rolls of an ignorant giggling general servant, who must needs take the helpless little children into the verminous houses of her friends to let them see how nice she looks in her borrowed plumes." If Crow had said that!

J. H. C. (East Greenwich).—We know nothing about the Children's Health Fund, superintended by S. Eagles (31, Paulet Road, Camberwell), but we do not blame anyone for sending out "attractive young ladies" to canvass.

C. J. E. (Abingdon) has been asked to open a debate against the Press and comes to us for advice. We can only suggest that the Press is untruthful, immoral, given up entirely to horrors, politically unfair, and written in abominable English. If he wants to point out what the Press might be he has only to hold up JOHN BULL.

E. M. (Battersea) would like us much more if we would only take up Tariff Reform. All in good time.

"ANTI-STIGGINS" (London, W.) thinks our League song is too much of the music hall type and ought to be more after the manner of Swinburne. He considers Irishmen are "dirty, drunken, foul-mouthed creatures." He also objects strongly to our remarks on the abolition of imprisonment for debt as he has three people in court at present himself. We hope they will get off.

"ISCA" (Exeter) asks why the British Public have shelved Admiral Wilson? Have they?

H. H. (North Kensington).—We believe that the property of the Salvation Army is vested in Mr. Booth, who can dispose of it as he pleases. We hope he will not forget us in his will.

M. E. E. G. (Clapton) wants our opinion on A. R. Wallace's "Miracles and Modern Spiritualism," where she found "such a grand solution of the puzzling problem of life, the why and the wherefore of it all." We confess that we are not convinced by Spiritualism, but we have always understood that Mr. Wallace is an honest man.

A. S. B. (Smallheath) thinks the overseers are very wasteful in printing lists of burgesses and nailing them to the notice-boards of chapels and churches, where it is not easy to read them, and where they are soon destroyed by the elements. But the law requires it to be done.

A. S. (Glasgow, E.) sends us a very startling story of an alleged miscarriage of justice, and says that certain magistrates ought to be put in the dock. But we can hardly be expected to endorse such a statement without ample confirmation.

"Echo" (Upper Tooting).—Certainly, we will receive any information you care to send us in confidence.

"MALE" (Ealing) thinks that there is a very effective answer to the claims of Suffragettes. He thinks that women are sometimes irritable, and that their judgment undoubtedly suffers. But does not this also apply to men?

W. C. F. (Clapham) says he is taking the liberty of wasting our time in order to congratulate us on the progress of the John Bull League. No liberty and no waste.

"CUT-'EM-QUICK" (Birmingham) calls our attention to the fact that the "Stylo Supply Co.," the "home employment" swindlers, have moved from Mortimer Street to 2, Kingly Street. We venture to predict that they will soon move to Marlborough Street or Vine Street.

W. G. B. (Liverpool) sends us a long complaint relating to the treatment of the girls employed at the "New Stores" of Messrs. Woolworth and Co., of Church Street.

S. J. (Smethwick), and other readers, object to our recent reference to the Church of England as being "State supported." Technically, of course they are correct, but in a colloquial sense a Church which takes tithes and possesses various exclusive rights of burial, etc., may surely be referred to in that way.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

FREE TO THE RUPTURED.

A Well Known Authority Sends a Sample of a Famous Method Free to All.

We will send free to anyone who is ruptured, or knows of any person ruptured, a free trial of our famous home cure. It is a marvellous method, curing cases that defied hospitals, doctors, trusses, electricity and all else. Merely send your name and address, and the free trial will be sent without any cost to you whatever.

Mr. R. Wharton, 52, Domestic Street, Holbeck, Leeds, was ruptured seven years, tried all kinds of trusses, partly made up his mind to undergo the danger of an operation, when, by the greatest of good luck, he tried the Rice method. He is cured, *and has worn no truss for over six years.*

R. WHARTON.

Mr. Wharton says:—"I tried the Rice method, and it cured me. I had been ruptured seven years and tried all kinds of trusses with no benefit. I am doing all I can to persuade every ruptured person to try this method, which I think is worth its weight in gold."

Every ruptured person ought to send at once and make a trial of this method. It has cured thousands of people without pain, danger, operation, or an hour's loss of time. Begin now, and in a short time you will forget you have been ruptured. Do not fail to send in this Coupon to-day.

COUPON (B 1101).

Cut out and post to WM. S. RICE, LTD., 8 & 9, STONECUTTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Time Ruptured?.....Age? .....
Right, left, or both sides, or navel?.....
Name .....
Address .....
.....

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FINEST QUALITY,

ONE PROFIT, and

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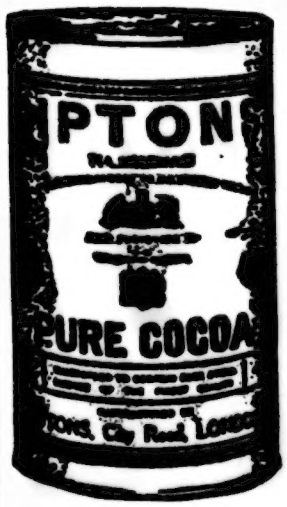
PER 1/6 POUND.



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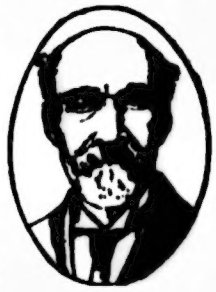
DON'T WEAR A TRUSS

The Stuart Plaster-Pad Co., 66-67, Shoe Lane, E.C.

17/9/09

GENTLEMEN,

In my previous communication of June 18th, I mentioned I should probably acquaint you in respect of the result of your Plaster-Pads. I have now dispensed with No. 3 pad, and consider I am quite justified in asserting that the object is obtained; the rupture has disappeared, and the groin has regained its normal conformation. You have my sanction to give publicity to the foregoing, as I consider your Treatment cannot be too widely circulated, and I hope it may be the means of curing many others.



I am, Gentlemen, yours sincerely,

J. G. Mason

(*Hundreds of letters like above.*)

STUART'S PLASTER-PADS

are different from the painful truss, and being self-adhesive they hold the rupture in place without straps, buckles or springs—cannot slip, so cannot chafe or press against the pelvic bone. The pads contain a wonderful medicine which is kept constantly in contact, thereby curing the most obstinate cases. Thousands have successfully treated themselves without hindrance from work and in the privacy of the home. Soft as velvet—easy to apply—inexpensive. Write to-day and "Trial Treatment," with interesting book, will be sent free. Address—STUART PLASTER-PAD CO. (Dept. P.), 66-67, Shoe Lane, London, E.C.

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WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

Medley.

Young McCalmont himself—as well as some of the horses he rides—is a "bit of a whistler."

Ernie Piggott, the steeplechase jockey, is the agent for a wonderful stable preparation, Poudre du Pin, by which all the French trainers "swear."

I am pleased to hear that Easter Night has got to her proper form, having completed a very useful double at the recent Cape Town meeting.

I must compliment the Sandown Park Executive upon their universally appreciated idea in setting out upon the Race Card under all handicaps, what the scale of weight-for-age for that particular distance is.

A vast amount of money passes through the Totalisator in South Africa, and as the clubs take 5 per cent. of the total, one can well see where their big stakes come from.

Owners, trainers, and jockeys do not like what are termed "talking horses"—that is those literally written or gossiped up into being supposed "fliers."

Prophetic.

One more day of Windsor to precede Lingfield's two afternoons of fair sport, which I hope will be featured by successes for the usually unlucky Alfriston stable. This afternoon Windsor's chief hurdle handicap should go to Misere, in whose very probable absence, however, Te Whiti—who was second best at Sandown—is certain to take beating and will be at a fair price. Mr. McCalmont will win the Amateur Steeplechase with whichever he runs, probably Johnstown Lad; and Smithfield, who needed the good gallop gained in his Newbury race, should gain the College Handicap.

At Lingfield, Butter Ball has nothing to beat in the Covert Side Steeplechase to prove how ill-fated he was at Sandown, and his stable companion, Melusine II.—also horribly ill-fated there—ought to make it a "double" for Mr. Jeff Cohn in the Winter Handicap. The next day, to continue the sequence, Rather Dangerous is not out of the Hever Handicap.

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The Ideal Pictorial . . Tuesdays . . - - 6d.

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FREE POSTAGE.

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'Phone: Mayfair 3604. Padd. 235.

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What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

ALEXINE will enable you to "get all the good out of your food." It is neither a food nor a medicine, but an aid to Nature.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date* bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify *the date* and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for the issues of April 3rd, September 11th, October 30th, and November 6th:—

H. HARDING, 13, Coronation Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. (No. 163201—April 3rd.)

W. CLARK, 15, Bartlett Road, Gravesend. (No. 151013—Sept. 11.)

W. DUKE, 63, Sixth Avenue, Queen's Park, W. (No. 242700—Oct. 30th.)

W. PRATT, 85, Chichester Road, Portsmouth. (No. 218031—Nov. 6th.

ALBERT W. PECK, 47, Crawford Street, Monton, Eccles. (No. 33409—November 6th.)

MRS. W. J. SHALDERS, Morleigh, 115, Lowther Road, Brighton. (No. 136554—Nov. 6th.)

A. KING, 37, Store Street, Tottenham Court Road. (No. 196068—Nov. 6th)

MRS. D. M. BOWIE, 85, Brook Green, Kensington, W. (No. 172823—Nov. 6th.)

MRS. EDITH VICKERS, 39, Kellerton Road, Lee, S.E. (No. 45743—Nov. 6th.)

J. HALLS, Church Street, Tollesbury, E. (No. 194537—Nov. 6th.)

ROLAND TURNER, 90, Woodsley Road, Leeds. (No. 9053—Nov. 6th.)

F. C. BISHOP, Belgrove Cottage, Belle Grove, Welling, Kent. (No. 224740—Nov. 6th.)

G. LEADBETTER, 90, Easter Road, Edinburgh. (No. 138996—Nov. 6th.)

H. TEW, "Welshman" Office, Carmarthen, South Wales. (No. 216902—Nov. 6th.)

MRS. M. A. OWEN, 41, Langham Road, Blackburn. (No. 95310—Nov. 6th.)

F. R. ROWLEY, 54, Pearl Street, Bedminster, Bristol. (No. 66163—Nov. 6th.)

JAMES WATSON, 23, Guide Street, Weaste, Manchester. (No. 366092—Nov. 6th.)

W. E. PLUMLEY, 17, Berwick Road, Stapleton Road, Eastville, Bristol. (No. 205276—Nov. 6th.)

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of November 20th:—

4042	61516	103242	147206	268101
6921	62163	103293	148853	271409
8539	65690	106167	153554	295205
10381	71145	111210	159105	307402
13164	76676	113243	169001	317633
14393	76754	113283	169497	327192
15163	77302	115748	171319	342669
27297	78331	118533	175077	350934
28050	81074	120260	192051	353572
30974	84024	129111	195701	358905
33248	85064	130171	198181	371409
33391	87339	131666	200437	396197
34694	89668	133335	202875	410101
44730	92519	133731	209833	412018
46410	93762	136637	221595	421115
47390	94012	138314	241278	430107
52902	95610	140434	242753	432516
52933	97805	141111	246567	435891
58414	99073	143508	247559	438763
59343	102922	144118	253076	439579

THE 100 NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JANUARY 22nd, 1910, PUBLISHED JANUARY 20th.

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It is unnecessary to remove the Blade for Cleaning

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Our Booklet will interest you.

Clemak Razor and Seven Blades	5/0
Clemak Razor and Twelve Blades	7/6
Standard Outfit with Strop -	10/6
Clemak Blades, per packet - -	2/6
Clemak Stropper—including Strop	3/6

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Clemak Safety Razor Co.,

17, Billiter Street, London.

BRITISH MAKE

CLEMAK WITH SEVEN BLADES **Safety Razor 5/-**

see page iii. of cover.

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